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The AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

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SHOOTING ~ 1888 to ~
ARMS & THE MAN 1906
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VOLUME LXXV

NUMBER 3
TECHNOLOGY DEPT.



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by Dr. P. P. Quayle

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MARCH, 1927

25 cents the copy

This 50-shot pistol target was made with Peters Outdoor Tack-Hole Ammunition by Dr. G. Irwin Royce of Glendale, Calif., on November 1, just eight days before his 76th birthday. Distance was 25 yards. Dr. Royce's scores were 98, 97, 97, 96, and a Possible—488 out of 500.



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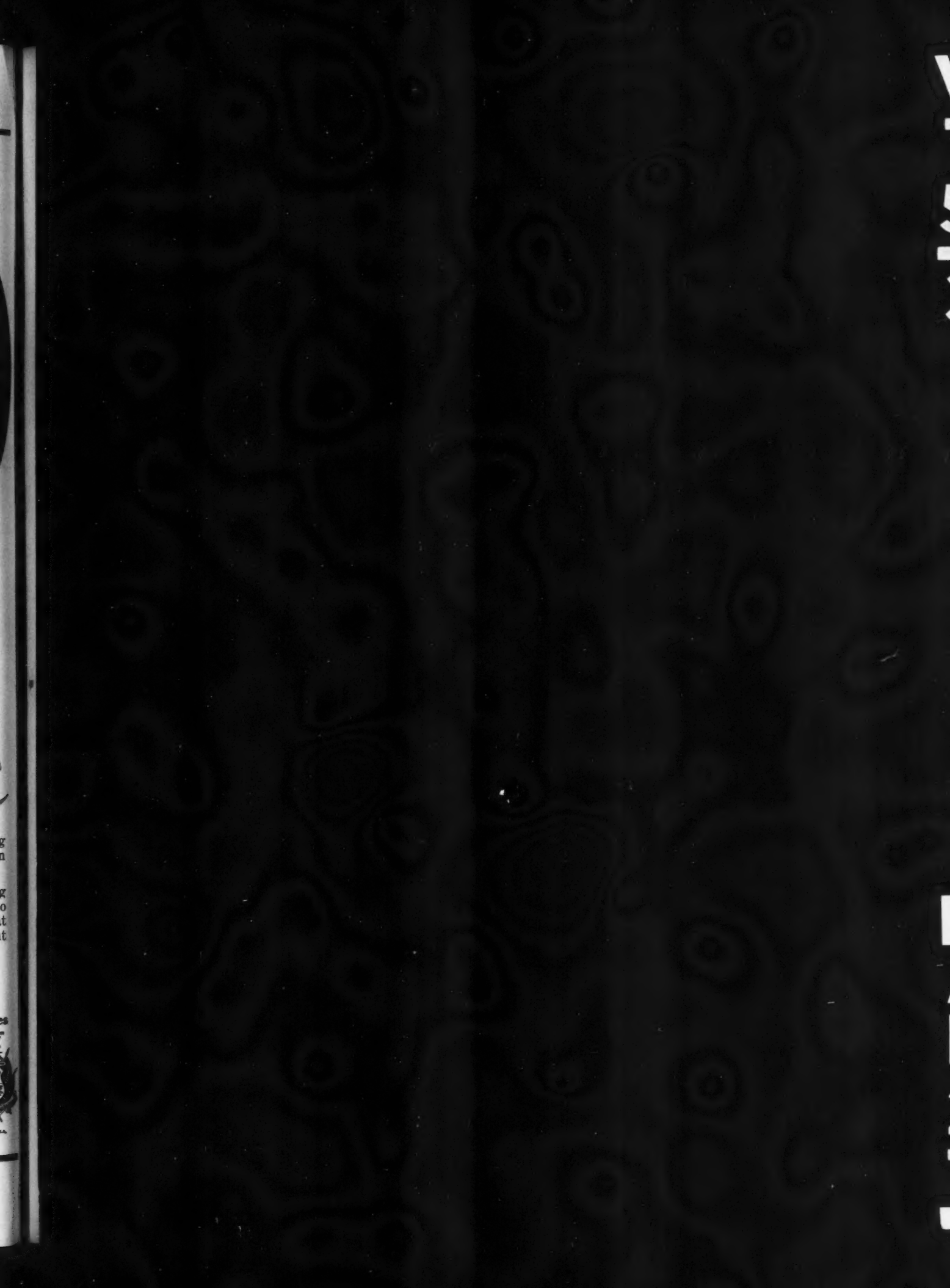
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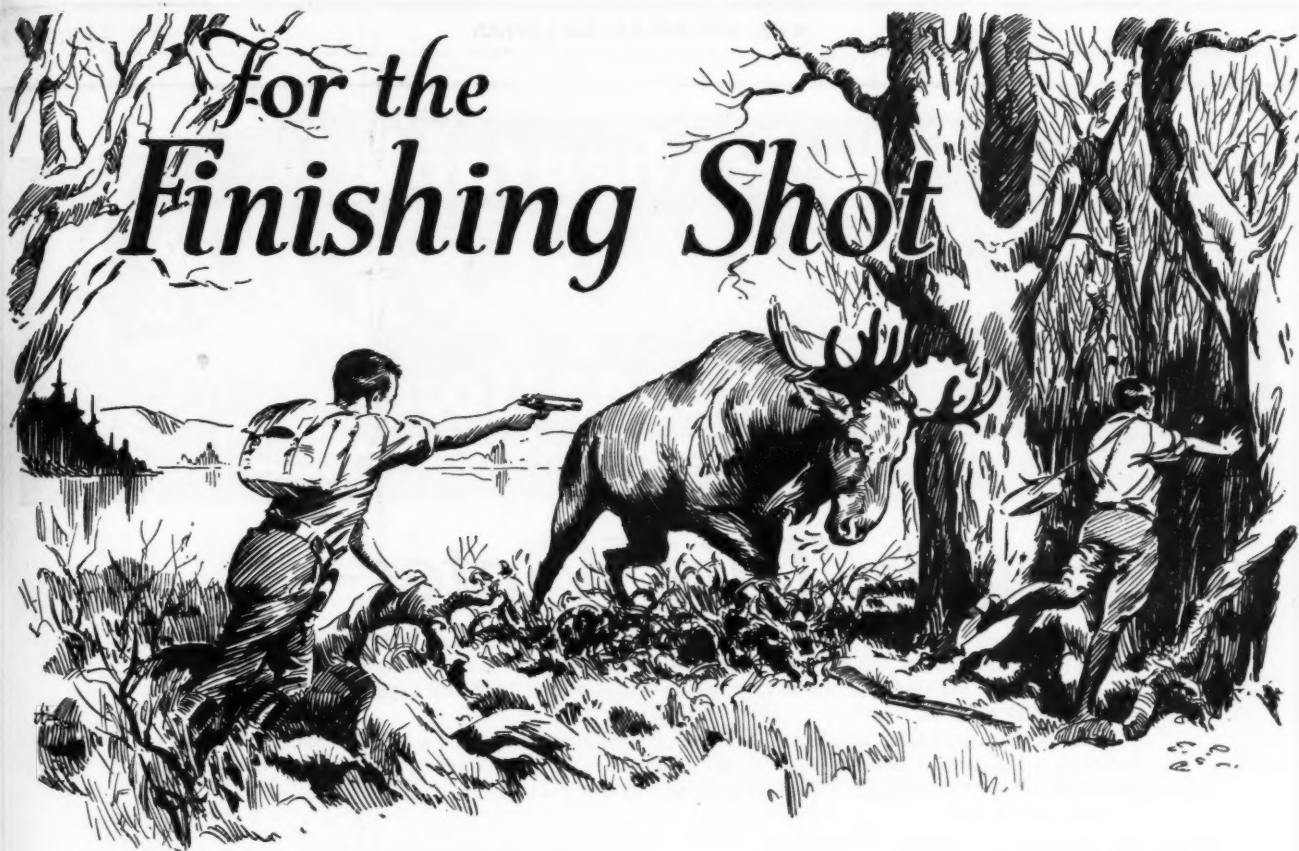
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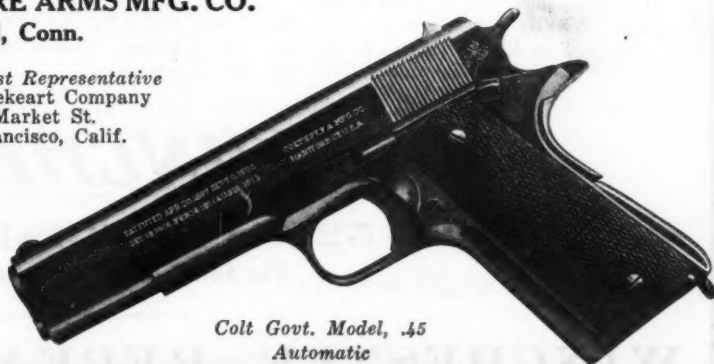
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Won by Mike Altman, Luverne, Iowa. Score of 389-1-8, with Winchester Model 52. Second, A. K. Friedrich, Ames, Iowa, with 389-2-8, with Winchester Model 52 and Precision.

75-Foot Individual Kneeling Match—

Won by E. H. LaRue, Chicago, score of 392—17x. Winchester Model 52 and Precision. Second, Bruce Wilson, Sapulpa, Okla., 392-2-8; Winchester Model 52. Third, Sam Moore, Ithaca, N. Y., 391. Winchester Model 52 and Precision.

50-Foot Individual Kneeling Match—

Won by A. K. Friedrich, Ames, Iowa. 397. Second, Sam Moore, Ithaca, N. Y., 394. Third, Emmett Swanson, Minneapolis, 394. All with Winchester Model 52 and Precision.

75-Foot Individual Sitting Match—

Won by Joe Wilson, Sapulpa, Okla., with score of 400. Bruce Wilson, also of Sapulpa, second, by a point, with 399. Sam Moore, Ithaca, N. Y., third, with 396. All with Winchester Model 52.

75-Foot Individual Prone Match—

Won by Sam Moore, Ithaca, N. Y., with a possible, 400-40x. Second, E. L. Peterson, Windber, Pa., with 400-37x. Both used Winchester Model 52 and Precision. Six of the seven highest in this match shot the Winchester Model 52.

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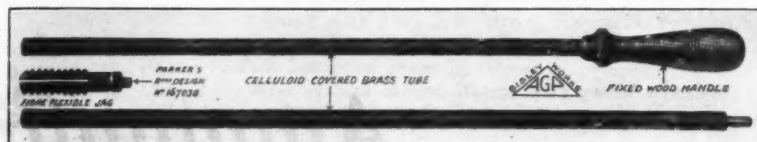
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THE Swiss, who last year took the rifle championship of the world away from America, have picked their International team, and have placed it in intensive training. It is time for America to get its team together and train it.

In order to do this it is necessary to ask the shooters of the country to contribute to a fund for the International team. Each shooter who wants to help America regain the title is asked to contribute at least one dollar. Pin your contribution to the attached form and send it to the National Rifle Association, 1108 Woodward Building, Washington, D. C.

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Name

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P. S.—If you don't want to clip the magazine, write your name and address on a piece of paper, pin your contribution to it and mail to the National Rifle Association.

The AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

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WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH, 1927

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N. R. A. Directors Meet

By Jack Rohan

THE annual meeting of the board of directors of the National Rifle Association of America was held January 28, in Washington.

Roll call revealed that more than four-fifths of the directors were present when the meeting was called to order.

The following officers were elected by acclamation: President—Lieut. Col. Fred M. Waterbury, New York; first vice-president—Hon. Benedict Crowell, Ohio; second vice-president—Lt. Col. L. M. Rumsey, Missouri; third vice-president—Maj. Gen. F. C. Ainsworth, U. S. A. (retired), District of Columbia; executive vice-president—Brig. Gen. M. A. Reckord, Maryland; secretary-treasurer—C. B. Lister, District of Columbia; members of executive committee—Lt. Col. Waterbury, Mr. Crowell, Lt. Col. Rumsey, Gen. Ainsworth, Gen. Reckord, Maj. F. W. Parker, Illinois; Maj. L. W. T. Waller, Pennsylvania; G. D. Pope, Michigan; Col. G. A. Fraser, North Dakota; H. L. Day, Idaho; Commander E. E. Wilson, U. S. Navy; Maj. Ralph Keyser, U. S. Marine Corps; Col. A. J. Macnab, Jr., U. S. Army; Maj. Gen. C. C. Williams, Chief of Ordnance, U. S. Army; Rear Admiral Montgomery Taylor, Chief of Fleet Training, U. S. Navy.

Capt. G. L. Wotkins, U. S. A., requested that he be relieved from his duties as a member of the executive committee, and it was in compliance with his request that Mr. Day was elected to the place.

Two vacancies were found to exist in the board of directors. Brig. Gen. James A. Drain, Washington State, and Senator David A. Reed, United States Senator from Pennsylvania, were elected to the vacancies.

General Drain was nominated by Col. Macnab, and Senator Reed by Col. Kemp.

President Waterbury, in his report, revealed that the Association had made marked progress for the year 1926, in spite of the fact that it had operated under rather unpropitious conditions, notably the failure of Congress to appropriate money for National Matches and the necessity for reorganization because of conditions resulting from the removal from office of the former secretary, Fred H. Phillips. President Waterbury also announced that the suit for an accounting against Mr. Phillips, which had been brought by the Association after his removal from office, had been settled by Mr. Phillips and his attorneys agreeing to a consent decree in court, virtually admitting the contentions of the National Rifle Association, and turning over to the National Rifle Association cash and material amounting to about \$7,000 which had been in the possession of Mr. Phillips.

High spots in the president's report follow:

A strong effort is being made to put rifle shooting back in the Olympic games. The N.R.A. has served notice that it will support no candidate for president of the International Shooting Union who does not make this a part of his program.

The Argentine Rifle Association has been informed that the N.R.A. will approve a change of rules in the Pan-American matches to permit the use of any standard service rifle used by any nation competing in the matches.

The N.R.A. favors uniform pistol legislation and is cooperating with the U. S. Revolver Association and others to this end. Karl Frederick,

director of the N. R. A., and member of the executive committee of the U.S.R.A., is representing both organizations at the hearings conducted by crime commissions and the uniform laws committee of the American Bar Association. Mr. Frederick was in Chicago during the meeting of the N.R.A. directors attending to this phase of the Association's activities.

The Colt Man Target was adopted for the Police Pistol Qualification course.

A small-bore committee was appointed to revise the small-bore rules. This revision was adopted, and as a result, some criticism was received. An attempt is being made to iron out the differences of opinion.

Surrender of the Association's New York charter and reincorporation in Delaware, authorized at the directors' meeting at Sea Girt, was found unnecessary, as a change in the New York corporation laws makes it desirable to continue under the old charter.

The Junior Rifle Corps, which at the beginning of 1926 indicated that it would cost the Association between \$15,000 and \$20,00 a year, has been reorganized and is well on the way toward becoming self-supporting.

THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN is now being sent to every member of the Association, the dues being raised to \$3.00 per annum to make this possible. The magazine has been enlarged 50 per cent, and is rapidly gaining circulation outside of the Association proper.

The president paid tribute to the officials of the New Jersey Rifle Association for making possible the Sea Girt matches as a stop-gap in the absence of National Matches, and declared that the success of these matches was largely due to the excellent cooperation of the Marine Corps.

National Matches for 1927 appear assured. The War Department Appropriation Bill provides for them, and as amended in the House, carries \$100,000 for aid to civilian clubs. The civilian club appropriation is \$135,000 less than is needed and it is hoped this amount will be added to the bill.

Cordial relations have been established with all of the services and the Junior Rifle Corps activities are bringing the Association into close touch with the so-called military schools.

General Reckord, as executive vice-president, amplified the report of President Waterbury.

In discussing the Junior Rifle Corps, he pointed out that the deficit of the Junior Rifle Corps for the entire year was less than it was in April of 1926, when the plan of organization was changed. This, he pointed out, indicated that the corps would be virtually self-supporting within two years.

The executive vice-president revealed that legislation was being carefully watched in order that the interests of the shooters of the country might be fully protected.

Concluding, General Reckord declared that the success of the Association for the year, particularly in getting the appropriations for the matches, was due largely to the splendid cooperation received from the shooters throughout the country. He pointed out that these, by

letters and telegrams to their Congressmen, had effectively supported the pleas for National Matches and aid to civilian clubs.

The report of Secretary Lister follows:

"There has been a marked trend during the last year toward the organization of clubs and leagues of clubs rather than the former tendency toward direct individual affiliation with the Association. The revised bookkeeping system which was installed at the beginning of the year in accordance with the recommendation of our auditors makes it impossible to compare the exact number of new clubs organized in 1926 as against 1925. The books indicate, however, that \$3,065 were received as affiliation fees for new clubs in 1925 as against approximately \$4,255 in 1926. Apparently there was an increase of about 130 new clubs organized in 1926 over the number of new clubs organized the preceding year.

"The number of life members affiliated decreased slightly, 245 having been affiliated in 1925 and 217 this year. The paid annual memberships reflected the increase in club affiliation, dropping from 22,000 to 17,000. Some of this decrease in annual membership may undoubtedly be attributed to the considerable amount of unfavorable publicity by chronic dissenters who were loud in their denunciation of the former administration, and equally dissatisfied with efforts to reorganize the N.R.A., through various sportsmen's publications in the latter part of 1925 and early 1926. Some decrease may also be attributed to the fact that the Association was under unusual expense in connection with several matters, such as the taking over of the Junior Rifle Corps, and the settlement with the former secretary. The funds expended and the time required in connection with these two matters resulted in a curtailment of the usual extension work.

"The Junior Rifle Club has now been completely absorbed and brought into line with the National Rifle Association program. The several thousands of dollars deficit which was encountered this year in operating the Junior activities will be materially reduced if not entirely eliminated during 1927. The general reaction throughout the schools and various boys' organizations has been most favorable to the new set-up. Many organizations which previously held aloof from rifle shooting because they felt that it was being commercialized have enthusiastically fallen in line now that the N.R.A. is in control. The matches required for school boys and the qualification courses necessary to keep them interested differ materially from the usual N.R.A. competitions, and under the new arrangement we are now able to handle all school and Junior work along the lines best adapted to getting results.

"I believe that the N.R.A. should keep abreast of the increased tendency to organize clubs and local leagues of clubs by amending its by-laws to provide for the affiliation not only of State rifle associations, but of rifle leagues. These leagues are invaluable aids in promoting rifle shooting, as they provide the necessary atmosphere of competition between towns which are natural rivals in commercial

and sporting activities and so gain a great deal of local publicity and interest for the shooting game. Many of these leagues have been organized during the past year and have indicated their desire to affiliate with the Association in order to obtain the solidity and prestige which would be given them if they were operating under a National Rifle Association charter.

"The programs of postal matches have been further broadened during the year. There has been an increase of about 30 per cent in the total number of entries received in the various matches conducted through the mails. These programs, which a few years ago were confined almost entirely to Gallery Matches at 25 yards, with maximum entry lists of a few hundred, now embrace all types of competitions up to and including 1,000-yard matches, with entries aggregating nearly three thousand for the year.

"The statement which has been frequently made in some quarters that the N.R.A. should be called the 'National Match Association' because it depends on the National Matches for its principal support and bends most of its energies toward the success of the National Matches, was strikingly refuted in 1926. The combined effect of the economy program of the present administration and of the long-known desires of the general staff to hold the National Matches on alternate years, found fruition in the abandonment of the National Matches for 1926. However, the N.R.A. is still in business. Six regional competitions were arranged for with the cooperation of the office of the Assistant Secretary of War and the Corps Area Commanders. All of the important National Rifle Association competitions were fired in order that the annual history of these matches might be complete. The regional matches were in most cases very successful, from the standpoint of stimulating local interest. Many people were undoubtedly introduced to the N.R.A. Match programs through the medium of these 1926 regional competitions who would never have heard of the Association had our activities been confined entirely to the National Matches. The regional matches demonstrated beyond doubt the fact that annual National Matches are absolutely essential to the development of the maximum interest among civilians and National Guardsmen in their rifle and pistol work. It is believed that the regional match idea should be developed and made a permanent part of the National Rifle Association Match Program. These matches should, however, be held at such time and under such conditions as to make them feeders for the National Matches, but with the distinct understanding that they will not be accepted as a substitute for the National Matches.

"In the matter of general extension work, considerable progress has been made. The American Legion has officially approved the work that the Association is doing, and as a result of direct letters and publicity through the American Legion magazine, considerable activity has developed among the Legion posts. A total of 63 Legion posts are affiliated with

us at the present time, and daily inquiries are being received from organizations desiring to affiliate.

"Several years of consistent effort to interest the police departments is also beginning to have some effect, although very little in the way of direct returns can be obtained from the police departments. The majority of the men are underpaid and are unwilling to spend their own money for participation in National Rifle Association matches or for affiliation with us. The departments as such usually prefer to carry on their own pistol training in their own way, and can see no particular reason for affiliating with the Association under the club status. It is felt, however, that this is a work in which the Association can be of real public service, and every effort is being made to assist the police departments, regardless of any direct return which may accrue to the Association.

"Blueprints covering the details of construction of standard types of indoor and outdoor ranges have been made up and distributed in considerable quantities. A variety of mailing pieces describing the work of the Association and the benefits of affiliation have been printed and others are in preparation. The sporting magazines of the country have indicated their willingness to cooperate in every possible way and the Service journals have also given us all possible assistance. Newspaper clippings received from our members in all parts of the country indicate that rifle shooting is being more and more recognized by the sporting editors as entitled to space in the newspapers.

"The general reaction among the members to the increase in dues from two dollars to three dollars per year has been most favorable. A proposal to civilian clubs that they increase their dues one dollar per year, forwarding this one dollar to the Association so that each club member might receive *THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN*, has been favorably received by a number of clubs. We expect to continue to call this matter to the attention of the clubs, with the idea that eventually the major proportion of our club members will be in direct touch with National Headquarters and will have a closer feeling of cooperation than has existed in the past when it was necessary for them to depend entirely on the club secretary for their information as to National programs, etc.

"Members generally are coming to a fuller appreciation of the variety of services which the Association is in a position to extend. The technical information on guns and ammunition furnished by Lieut. Col. Townsend Whelen, Maj. Julian S. Hatcher, and Capt. Charles Askins has been invaluable in attracting sportsmen to the Association. The volume of correspondence handled by these three men has more than doubled during the closing months of the year. The Secretary's office has assisted in an almost endless variety of matters, extending from local problems in connection with the enforcement of anti-firearms laws, up to obtaining of information on customs and hunting regulations in foreign countries. If the National Rifle Association is to assume its proper place in the minds of the



Lt. Col. F. M. Waterbury, President



Hon. Benedict Crowell, First Vice President



Lt. Col. L. M. Rumsey, Second Vice President

Maj. Gen. F. C. Ainsworth, U. S. A., (retired)
Third Vice President

(Editor's Note.—This photograph of Gen. Ainsworth was taken about 1908, as Gen. Ainsworth, then adjutant general of the army, was leaving the war department to attend a formal function.)



Brig. Gen. M. A. Reckord, Executive Vice President



C. B. Lister, Secretary-Treasurer

shooters of this country, this service angle of our work must be steadily broadened and advertised. We have for too long a time labored under the dual handicap of the impressions that the National Rifle Association was only for match riflemen, and that the only benefit of belonging to the N.R.A. was to buy a good rifle or ammunition cheaply.

"The outlook for 1927 is exceptionally bright. Contacts have been established during the past year which will begin to bear fruit

in 1927. Much of the new literature which has been prepared will not begin to bring any results until 1927. **THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN** will go to every member during the coming year, and will furnish an invaluable means of keeping our widely scattered membership informed as to what is going on, and will direct our promotion activities along uniform lines all over the country. No startling

increase in the number of individual annual members is anticipated, but a steady, healthy growth of organized clubs may be confidently looked forward to. In the final analysis, it is the active local rifle club which really promotes rifle shooting in any community."

(Continued on page 26)

The AMERICAN RIFLEMAN



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JACK ROHAN, Editor.

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Cooperation Grows Closer

ACTION of the executive committee of the N.R.A. in providing for a convention of State and club secretaries at the National Matches of 1927 is a new milestone in the progress the N.R.A. has made in the last few years. It indicates that the cooperation between the National Headquarters and the club officials, which has shown a marked growth of late, will be still closer.

Another progressive step is the change in the N.R.A. By-Laws to permit the affiliation of leagues. Organization of clubs into leagues and affiliation of leagues with the National Association will give the shooters of the country increased prestige as time goes on. It will relieve the National Headquarters of much detail and will facilitate organization of a united front of shooters when necessity arises for concerted action, if properly managed.

Most of the great national organizations handle local affairs through State or district associations affiliated with the national body, and there is no reason why the N.R.A. cannot do the same if it follows the plan used by other organizations. This plan is to keep each individual member advised of the situation throughout the country by an official national publication. The N.R.A. has such a publication in *THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN*. If the officers of clubs and leagues want to put rifle shooting on the same basis as other activities of national scope, they should see to it that *THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN* goes to every member of every club of every league. The easiest way to accomplish this is to fix the dues at a figure which will enable the club secretary to remit to the N.R.A. a subscription for every club member. United we shoot. Divided we may have to learn to knit.

National Matches Assured

THE appropriation bill providing for the National Matches this year has passed both houses of Congress and the matches are now assured. Credit for this is due to the rank and file of the shooters of the country, who impressed upon their Congressmen the importance of the matches. It is now up to the same shooters to begin paving the way for National Matches in 1928. Certain members of the general staff seek to establish a policy of holding the matches only every two years—a step toward eliminating them entirely. If the shooters will begin now to show their Congressmen the light, the matches as an annual event will be assured.

Cruel and Unusual

THE *Army and Navy Journal*, editorially, condemns a judge in Decatur, Illinois, for attempting to force a young thief to join the Army. According to the news dispatches the judge gave the young crook the choice of joining the Army or going to prison. The *Army and Navy Journal*, and a number of Army officers and non-coms, raise the point, and rightly, that the uniform which is the shroud of many a brave patriot should not suffer the disgrace of being worn by a cook. They hold that this judge knows nothing about the Army, has no respect for it, and is unfit to hold office.

That the judge is unfit to hold office *THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN* will concede, but it would disqualify him, not on the ground that he lacks information and respect for the Army, but on the ground that he is inflicting a cruel and unusual punishment—barred by the Constitution—and that he attempted by threat and misrepresentation to induce a young criminal to suffer, by his own choice, a punishment beyond the power of the court to inflict. One suspects that this judge knew a whole lot about the Army—and about its present condition.

One surmises that he knew the Army is hungry, illy clothed, that the humane society and public health departments would prosecute any persons keeping livestock in quarters as tumble-down as those in which officers and enlisted men are compelled to live in some Army posts. We imagine that he knew that while dozens of alleged welfare and uplift organizations make it their business to see that the inmates of penal institutions are well fed, decently clothed, comfortably housed, supplied with good baths and agreeable amusements and generally treated so as to make their sojourn in prison pleasant, nobody gives a whoop about the men who dedicate their lives to training themselves to defend their country in time of peril. There is reason to believe that he knew that in prison this young crook would get about seventy-five cents worth of food a day, enjoy a daily bath with hot and cold showers, sleep under cozy blankets in warm, well-ventilated, comfortable, although somewhat restricted quarters that he would have no guard duty to do in the cold and rain that six or eight hours of leisurely labor would constitute his day's work—Sunday and Saturday afternoon off.

It is presumed that he knew that in the Army the young crook would wear shapeless shoddy or deny himself every little comfort in order to buy a decent uniform with his meager pay; that his food allowance would be 30-odd cents a day that he'd shiver under inadequate blankets in some tumble-down shack, and in general suffer all the inconvenience that senseless penury inflicts on the regular soldiers of this nation.

It is hard on the decent men who wear the uniform to have it suggested that crooks be admitted to the Army, but perhaps if all the decent men would get out and permit the judges to fill the ranks with murderers, thieves, swindlers, and the like, the welfare outfits that take such good care of the "poor, unfortunate criminal" might get the Army chow allowance increased slightly beyond 30-odd cents a day, and the miserable shacks that pass as barracks in some posts replaced by decent buildings.

That Decatur judge might have been having an idea. Present conditions in the Army are a national disgrace.

The Cutts Compensator

By Philip P. Quayle

Asst. Physicist, Bureau of Standards

THE compensator is a device to be attached to the muzzle of small arms or ordnance for the purpose of overcoming the tendency to "climb" by reducing the kick and holding the muzzle down. It acts by di-

into one and the net result is to cushion the recoil and hold the muzzle down.

Any extended discussion of the mathematical theory of the device or the actual measurements of its efficiency in reducing the kinetic

Accurate measurements with a special ballistic pendulum have shown that the kinetic energy of recoil of the Service Springfield may be reduced 50 per cent by the use of the compensator. In the article referred to it is shown that if all of the gas of the cartridge of the Springfield could be turned backward through 180 degrees, a condition not only impossible but obviously undesirable, the percentage reduction would be 75 per cent. The compensator for this arm is, therefore, nearly 67 per cent efficient and this, considering the difficulties of the problem, is exceedingly high.

By changing the guard of the Springfield bayonet it may still be attached in the usual manner when the compensator is on the piece.

Judging from the general consensus of those who have fired only a few shots from the Springfield with and without the compensator attached, the reduction in recoil is always underestimated. However, if twenty rounds of, say, National Match cartridges are fired it will be evident that the compensator removes most of the real punishment. Possibly the physiological and psychological effect of recoil is proportional in some way to the rate at which energy is absorbed by the shoulder of the rifleman.

Under ordinary circumstances it is usually a difficult matter to fire a .30 cal. automatic rifle accurately from the shoulder.

The training regulations at present do not

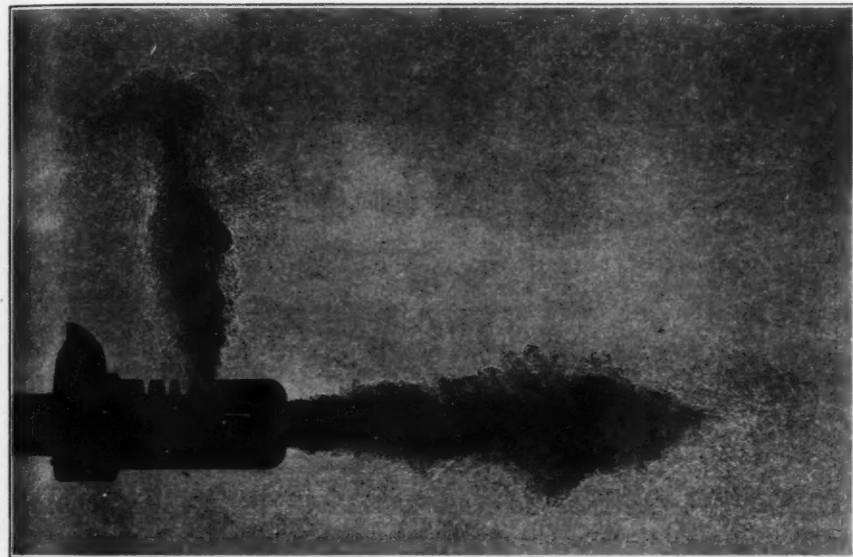


Figure 1.—Compensator for the .45 caliber Thompson Sub-machine gun. The cartridge has been fired and the bullet has not yet reached the compensator but is still in the barrel of the gun. The gas seen just ahead of the muzzle of the Compensator and over its ports consists of leakage gas and the air which has been pushed out of the barrel.

verting part of the blast gases backward and upward so that the resulting reaction pushes the compensator, and the muzzle to which it is attached, forward and downward.

The most efficient form of the .30-caliber compensator is shown in section in Fig 7. A number of ports are milled in the long cylindrical portion of the device, and usually these ports are all turned backward through the same angle, which is made as great as is consistent with the maximum reaction and the service of the piece. All of these ports assist in reducing recoil, but the upper ports exert a downward thrust on the muzzle. This downward component may be varied in magnitude by changing both the number and the position of the upper ports, and is different for each arm to which the device is fitted.

When the bullet has left the muzzle, but has not yet emerged from the compensator, the gas in the compensator is at high pressure and blows through the ports at high velocity; and even after the bullet has got clear away, this action continues to some extent, the gases blowing through the ports as well as through the front end. Thus the compensator does not become effective until the reaction of the bullet is nearly finished, so that the jerk backward is followed by a somewhat less sudden jerk forward and downward. But the whole time required for the discharge is so short that in practice the two effects are merged

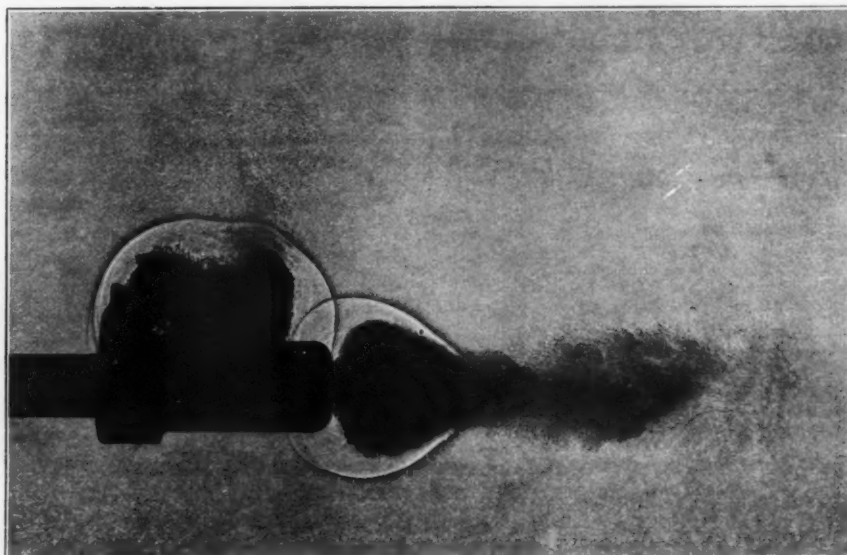


Figure 2.—The bullet is now out of the muzzle and in the Compensator as evidenced by the heavy sound or blast waves seen just ahead of the Compensator muzzle and over its ports. The general character of the phenomenon due to the high pressure of the gas blast is now entirely different from that in Figure 1. When the bullet emerges from the muzzle the gas of the propelling charge is released and immediately rushes into the Compensator where some of it escapes at the muzzle of the device but a large portion of it escapes at the upper ports. It is the reaction due to the gas escaping from these ports which holds the muzzle down.

energy of recoil would be out of place in these columns. Suffice it to say that such an article will appear in the *Journal of Army Ordnance* for March 15 of this year.

prescribe automatic fire with the light Browning, as this is considered to be a waste of ammunition. Targets are sometimes provided to convince the soldier that his semi-auto-

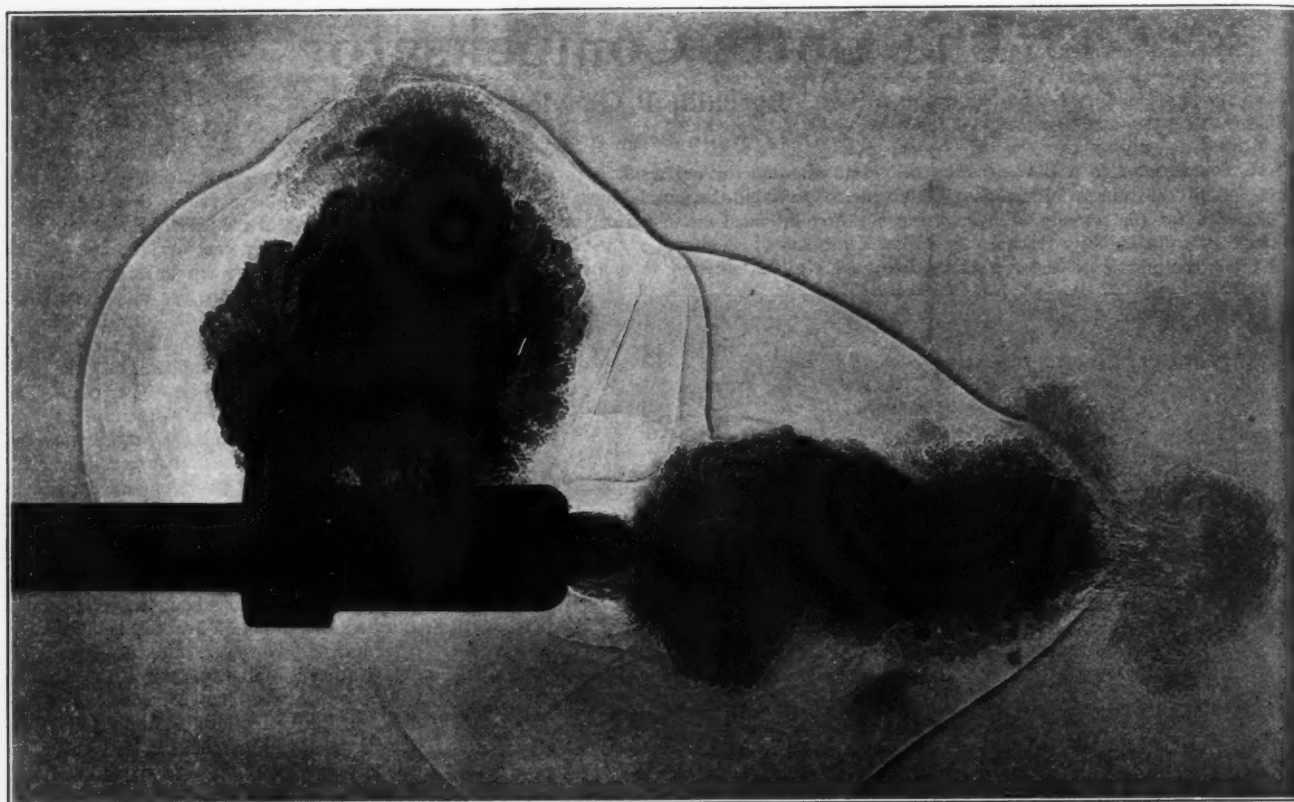


Figure 3.—The bullet is about to emerge from the muzzle of the Compensator. While passing through the small front cylinder of the compensator the bullet virtually stops the escape of gas from the muzzle thus momentarily raising the pressure of the gas at the ports. The distortion in the sound waves seen over the ports and ahead of the muzzle is due to the fact that the velocity of the gas is greater than that of sound in the surrounding gas medium.

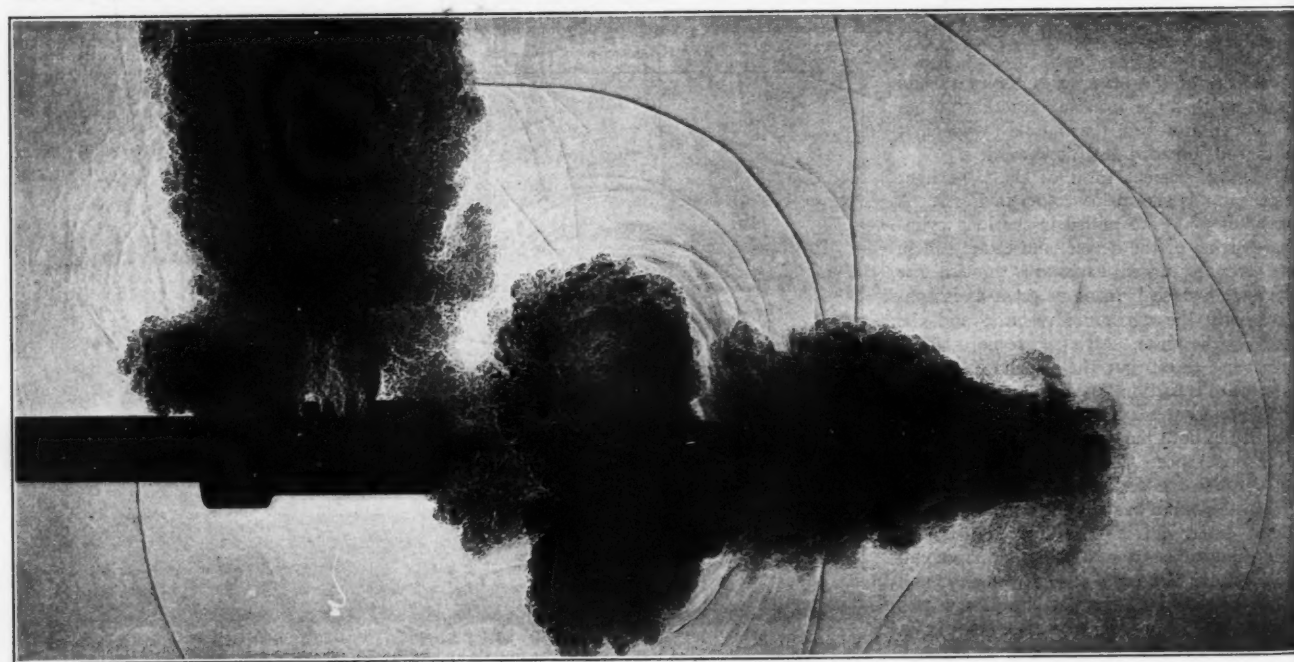


Figure 4.—Two clouds of gas have emerged from the muzzle of the Compensator, one preceding and one following the bullet. The volume of gas escaping from the ports appears to be considerably greater than the gas cloud following the bullet.

matic scores will greatly excel those fired full automatic.

An inexperienced man firing the light Browning full automatic from the shoulder will probably be unable to keep more than

one or two shots on the target, even at the shortest range. A sufficiently heavy man may, of course, with practice, learn to "ride" the piece, as the saying goes, and make some sort of a full automatic score.

With the compensator, as finally developed for this arm, full automatic fire becomes entirely feasible even for a light man, and a concentration of fire may be maintained which heretofore has been quite impossible, due to the recoil and climb of the piece.



Figure 5.—A slightly later stage of Figure 4, showing a larger volume of gas over the ports which are operating strongly. The bullet is beginning to move ahead of the gas blast which of course encounters great resistance is expanding in air.



Figure 6.—The bullet is now about 10 inches away from the muzzle. It appears that most of the gas is now exhausted, although the ports are still operating to a certain extent.

Effect of the Compensator on Muzzle Velocity and Accuracy

The question is occasionally raised as to the effect of the compensator on muzzle velocity and accuracy. In order to determine the effect on velocity the following oscillograph velocity determinations were made, using the same rifle and firing with and without the device:

30-CALIBER SPRINGFIELD			
Shot	Velocity Without Compensator	Shot	Velocity With Compensator
1	2,775 f.s.	7	2,775 f.s.
2	2,740 f.s.	8	2,740 f.s.
3	2,775 f.s.	9	2,775 f.s.
4	2,755 f.s.	10	2,795 f.s.
5	2,705 f.s.	11	2,760 f.s.
6	2,755 f.s.	12	2,740 f.s.
Mean	2,764 f.s.	Mean	2,751 f.s.

Note.—The fifth shot is not an error in measurement or computing; the phenomenon is real.

If the low value of shot 5 is omitted, the mean is 2,760, and still falls below the 2,764 f.s. obtained with the compensator attached. However, in view of the comparatively small number of shots fired, together with the probably error of the results, we should not be justified in claiming that an increased muzzle velocity is obtained when the device is employed. The measurements

do, however, establish that within the limits of accuracy of the experiment, and therefore well within the limits of practical importance, there is no reduction in velocity due to the compensator.

For the accuracy test the same rifle was fired on the 1,000-yard range at Quantico, Va., in the fall of 1926, and after two or three sighting shots, ten consecutive bullseyes were registered. The effect on accuracy is, therefore, not detrimental and it may well be an advantage in that a mass at the muzzle materially reduces muzzle vibration.

General Remarks

Range records show that the first two weeks of shooting are spent in

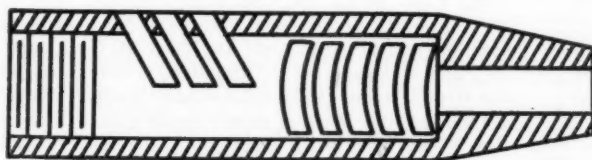


Figure 7.—Sectional Drawing Most Efficient Form of .30 Caliber Compensator

becoming accustomed to the heavy pounding normally associated with high-power rifles. At the end of this period of two weeks the average man will have become sufficiently accustomed to the heavy recoil to begin target practice in earnest. If rifles are equipped with the compensator, this waste of ammunition might be greatly reduced.

The compensator has been applied to the .30-caliber Browning automatic rifle, the .30-caliber Springfield, .45-caliber Thompson sub-machine gun used at the present time by the Marine mail guard, the .30-caliber Browning machine gun, and one or two other pieces. The compensator may also prove to be useful for reducing the recoil of certain types of naval and field ordnance. In the case of naval guns, the distance through which the piece recoils would be shortened and the deck reinforcing could be considerably lightened. If the throttling bars and similar recoil mechanism were then redesigned it is reasonable to suppose that the total recoil distance might be reduced by a factor of $\frac{1}{2}$ in the most favorable cases, although a factor of $\frac{1}{3}$, say, would, we believe, be very acceptable.

In the case of anti-aircraft guns the service of the piece could be greatly facilitated by a shorter recoil, thus making it possible to lower the gun and mount.

With army field guns, where the pieces must often be emplaced under very unfavorable conditions, it might be feasible to weaken the recoil mechanism and absorb say $\frac{1}{2}$ of the original energy over the original distance of recoil, which would help to keep the piece on its aiming point. The weight of the recoil mechanism, carriages, etc., could all be considerably lightened and the general wear and tear incident to field service reduced proportionately.

[*Editor's Note.*—The six photographs of the Compensator of the .45 caliber Thompson sub-machine gun were obtained by a method of spark photography previously described by the author.*

In this type of photography the illumination is provided by an electric spark of such short duration that even the most rapidly moving objects appear stationary. The record obtained is not an image, no lens being used, but is simply the silhouette of objects between the light source and the photographic plate. Since the .45 caliber pistol cartridge used in the Thompson sub-machine gun contains a 230-grain bullet and only about five grains of powder, the conditions are unfavorable for reduction of recoil and climb. However, since the recoil is light and the tendency to climb is great, it was decided to utilize the gas almost entirely in neutralizing the climb. The gun is thus rendered stable in automatic and semi-automatic fire. The gas which seems to obscure the sights in the accompanying photographs is actually colorless. The escaping gas is recorded on the film because its density is different from that of the surrounding air.]

* Bureau of Standards Scientific Paper No. 508, "Spark Photography and its Application to Some Problems in Ballistics."

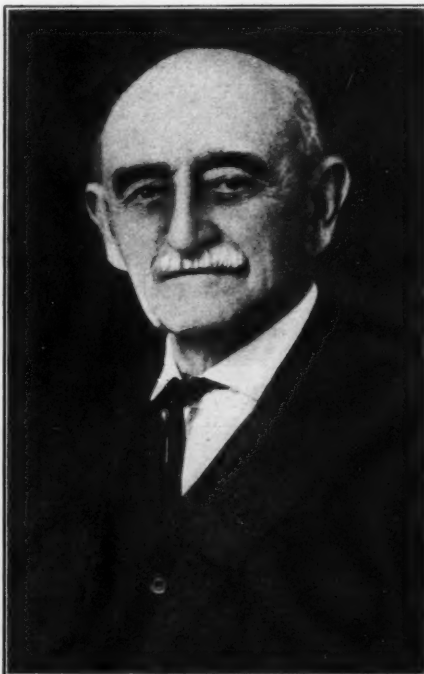
The Truth About "Wild Bill"

By Herbert Cody Blake

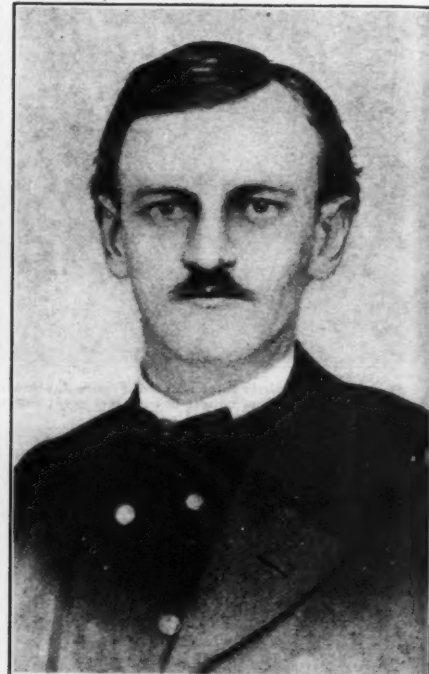
(Copyright 1927. All Rights Reserved.)

FOR over 50 years, histories, magazines, newspapers, and the like have credited "Wild Bill" Hickok with being the *greatest, deadliest, quickest, and surest* shot with a revolver of the West. One book, a beautiful

The majority of the readers of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN are familiar enough with firearms to appreciate the following incidents, which not only throw light on the much-discussed ability of Wild Bill, but line up one



CAPT. L. H. NORTH
(Copyright, 1926, by L. H. North)



MAJOR FRANK NORTH IN 1867
(Copyright by L. H. North)

rehash of all the old dope, speaks of him as the "Prince of Pistolers." I ask, where do these "historians" and roll-top desk fakir frontiersmen get their dope? Is there among them one who knew Wild Bill? Or ever saw him?

Have they any facts obtained first handed? For over 50 years the old stuff has been rehashed, warmed over and over, and "histed" at the public.

It's about time the truth was told, not only about Wild Bill, but about Bill Cody (Buffalo Bill), Custer, California Joe, and others, especially some of a more recent vintage—Bat Masterson, for example.

I never knew Wild Bill. I do know men who did—men who were intimately acquainted with him, who rode, ate, drank, smoked, gambled and bunked with him, and what's of more interest, *shot with him*, and I offer the following as proof that he was not the expert with a .45 he is credited with being.

Bill Cody seldom told the truth, "Sitting Bull" overreached him, but Cody had Ananias, Theresa Humbert, and Dr. Cook tied, his claim of having killed "Tall Bull," "Yellow Hand," etcetra, being illustrations. Cody did tell the truth when in answer to the question, "Was Wild Bill a crack shot?" he replied, "No! Just fair, just fair."

or more noted Westerners in their proper places in the parade. Wild Bill was *one* of the *quickest* revolver shots in his time. He was not the best—perhaps not the quickest, and positively not the quickest at a mark. It's a question if he was "sudden," for example, as Sheriff Johnny Owens. Shooting at a mark, at a target, for a bullseye, Bill was *slow*, painfully slow, and absolutely a poor shot.

Which bluff, having made it, I will uphold with *facts*.

Capt. Luther H. North, 81 years old, a highly honored resident of Columbus, Nebr., brother of Maj. Frank North, the organizer and commander of the famous U. S. Army Pawnee Scouts, 1865-'77, was intimately acquainted with Wild Bill, Bill Cody, and other celebrities of those days. Captain North is noted for a wonderful memory. He was a great rifle shot. Two—and only two—men ever wiped him off the board—Lieut. Bill Harvey of the Pawnee Scouts, and "Little Buckshot" Wentworth. Mrs. North, who in her youth was a celebrated "hoss woman" and crack rifle shot, is the only woman who ever beat him. Captain North tells me:

"Wild Bill was a poor shot when firing at a target with a revolver. It was in 1873 that

I was in Cheyenne and saw my brother, Frank, John Talbot, and Wild Bill at target practice. The distance was 100 feet. Frank won, Talbot was second, and Bill a rather poor third; and I will say now that if Bill was fast on the draw, or could shoot from the hip, he certainly didn't show it that day.

"He was very deliberate, and in aiming closed his left eye. As to his being a two-handed gunman, Frank said so long as he had known Bill he had never seen him use his left hand. Talbot was a noted pistol shot, and he said Frank was the only man whom he had met who could beat him.

"Frank frequently beat Bill shooting at 50,

"You ask me if Bill Cody was a crack shot? Well, on a running hoss with a rifle Bill was the best shot I knew. On the ground? Say, did you ever know Belden? He and I were buck soldiers in the Second Nebraska Cavalry during the Civil War, high privates in the rear file. He afterwards became a lieutenant in the Regular Army, but I don't know what regiment.

"Like as not you read in Bill's autobiography where he and Belden shot a match. That match was the 'limit.' They were both half stewed when they started, and after each shot at the target they would adjourn to the sutler's store (it was at Fort McPherson) and

"We were in the cattle business in the '70's, after we quit 'Injuns,' with Cody for a partner. One day, up on our ranch on the North Platte, Bill and me were out back of the ranch house shooting our Winchesters (1873 model .44 caliber, '8-squar' magazine). We stuck up a 'tomatter' can and fired at it 50 yards off. 'Was we sober?' you ask—absolutely.

"It wasn't like the days round Fort McPherson. As I was observing, 50 yards off, and Bill was missing it. Frank came out of the house and let go all six shots (.44's) in his revolver and plugged the can five times out of the six. He used, at the time, one of



WILD BILL HICKOCK, AS MARSHALL OF ABILINE, ABOUT 1871
(From Stacy Collection)

75, and 100 feet. Bill and Frank closed the left eye, Talbot kept both open."

Johnny Owens was not only as quick pulling and "pinting" a six-gun, but he was a much better shot than Hickok. Many of the older readers of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN will recall to memory the name "Belden" (White Chief), and as it has never been told in print, I'm going to digress long enough to repeat a story told me by Captain North about Belden and Bill Cody, and give it as near as I can as told me by the old scout.

take a drink or two. The target was a piece of white paper tacked on a soap box about two feet square (the box), and about half the time they missed the box—to say nothing about the paper—shooting at 50 yards, not 100 or 200, as Bill says. Belden beat him.

"I ain't holding that exhibition up as a fair sample of either his or Belden's skill, for they neither of them could see the box after a few shots.



WILLIAM F. "BUFFALO BILL" CODY
(Rare portrait from Stacy Collection)

the pair of S. & W. Russian Model .44's presented to him by Professor Marsh of Yale—pistols like you and I have now.

"Cody walked off, and chucking his rifle up onto the dirt roof of the ranch house, remarked, 'I guess I won't shoot any more today.'

(Continued on page 35)

The Range of the Flintlock Rifle

By Waller M. Cline

THE very interesting article by Captain Richard, published in the January, 1926, number of *THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN*, relating the incident of the Kentuckian Kirk shooting an Indian across the Maumee River, a distance of six hundred yards, when Ft. Heigs was besieged by the Indians, caused some doubt to be expressed as to the possibilities of the old muzzle-loading flintlock rifle

in a flintlock rifle from my collection, I re-bored and recut the grooves as near like the original bore as I possibly could. This gave me a barrel of forty inches in length, the pitch of grooves being one turn in forty-eight inches. The complete rifle weighing eleven pounds, and carrying a bullet of two hundred and twenty grains.

The results of the test were surprising as

way," "Why, the old thing won't make a splash in the water," "How are you going to tell where the bullet will hit?" "When you shoot, I'll walk around the lake and be there by the time the bullet gets there, and tell you where it hits."

I had faith in old "Betsy," and with the sights raised to the highest elevation, I touched the set trigger.



Mr. Cline's Kentucky which upheld tradition, with recovered bullet.

accomplishing such a feat. To those not familiar with the capabilities of these old arms this story seems incredible.

I am fortunate to have in my possession several perfect specimens of both the flintlock and percussion rifles. I have known intimately many famous riflemen of the muzzle-loading period. I have attended many of the old-time shooting matches, and know something of the range and accuracy of these rifles. After reading Captain Richard's article, I determined to try out a flintlock rifle at the range Kirk made his celebrated shot. As the caliber of the rifles I have are not as large as I thought necessary for this trial, I decided to re-bore and rifle a barrel of a caliber I thought would be suited for this attempt. Select-

to range, penetration, and accuracy. The trial was made at a lake just a few miles out of the city, and by placing the target at the edge of the water I was able to secure the elevation necessary with little difficulty. The rifle was first loaded with a priming charge of twenty-five grains of F.F.G., and then fifty grains of F.G. black powder. On top of this a one-eighth-inch felt wad was placed. Then the pure lead bullet was patched with heavy drilling, greased with tallow. With the old rifle loaded, I offered the first shot to any one of my friends who would volunteer for this honor. Needless to say all declined with thanks. I had taken a lot of kidding about the old rifle, and numerous remarks were made, such as, "The bullet won't go half

Following the report, there was a splash in the water about a foot under the target, which showed that my confidence had not been misplaced. The remarks from the onlookers were different now. "Well, I'll be d—d if I thought she would do it." "Is that the kind of a rifle Daniel Boone used?" "Let's see you do it again." Six shots were fired before the target was inspected. Two shots would have hit a man, and the others were close to the target, demonstrating, beyond doubt, that Kirk got his man. One of the bullets penetrated into the ground to the depth of six inches, and it was the opinion of the spectators that it would have put a man out of commission at a much longer range.

Hi-Power Rifles on Game

By T. W. Hildemann

THERE is so much discussion as to the merits of various rifles and calibers for use on game that shooters generally may be interested in actual experiences with the arms on a number of animals which have been killed with different loads and weapons.

Insofar as I know, I never wounded any large game and let it get away. I have been unusually fortunate in hitting in a vital spot, and from my personal experience it would appear that any of the rifles I have used are equally good for the game killed. Nevertheless, I would not recommend the .25 Remington or the .25-35 Winchester or anything smaller for game the size of deer. The old

.30-30 is good enough, the new .30-30 express mushroom and larger calibers are better, as are the guns handling the high-speed bullets. Among these I believe the .250-3,000 Savage is about as good a deer rifle as there is made, but no better than many others. I am, of course, dealing only with the rifles I have used.

Among the deer I have shot, the first six were killed with a .30-30 long-barreled Winchester, 170-grain S. P. bullet.

My first deer, a white-tail doe, was shot at a distance of about 150 yards. The deer was running fast, and the bullet entered just below the spine in the small of the back,

killing almost instantly. The second, another white-tail doe, shot at close range through the shoulders, ran about fifty yards and dropped. The third, a large, five-point, white-tail buck, was shot through the neck, at about 100 yards, dying instantly. This deer weighed 280 pounds when shipped several days after killing. My fourth, a white-tail doe, was shot at a distance of about 100 yards, the bullet breaking her back. Naturally the deer dropped instantly. For No. 5 I got another white-tail doe, shot at close range, while running fast. The bullet broke its back, with results the same as No. 4. The sixth, a small, white-tail buck, at a distance of about 150 yards, offered a standing shot. The bullet entered low on the left shoulder, piercing the heart. The deer ran about 100 yards,

(Continued on page 35)

International Team Officers Picked

By C. B. Lister

WITH tryouts for places on the International Team assured in every corps area, the officers for the team have been selected and Quantico designated as the place for the final elimination shoot.

Maj. Harry L. Smith, U.S.M.C., has been selected team captain and Maj. Julian S. Hatcher, Ordnance Department, U.S.A., team adjutant. The coach will be selected later by the team captain. The officers were selected by a sub-committee of the executive committee, which also chose the Dewar coach. Brig. Gen. M. A. Reckord, Col. A. J. Macnab, Jr., and Maj. Ralph Keyser, comprised the committee.

The committee recommended to the executive committee that Lieut. Col. Fred M. Waterbury, president of the National Rifle Association, be sent to Europe in April to attend the meeting of the International Olympic Committee at Monaco, and that he be instructed to remain for the meeting of the International Shooting Union, and that he, with Major Hatcher, team adjutant, represent the National Rifle Association at the meeting of the international body.

In making its recommendation, the committee pointed out that the importance of restoring rifle shooting to the Olympic program is such that the American shooters are entitled to be represented by their president in person, especially in view of the fact that virtually all of the European countries will be represented by their chief officer.

There is intense interest in the preliminary tryouts. The following places have been designated:

First Corps Area, including the States of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut: Tryouts to be held at Camp Devins, one mile south of Ayer, Mass.

Second Corps Area, including the States of New Jersey, Delaware, and New York: Tryouts to be held at Fort du Pont, two miles out of Delaware City, Delaware, and at Fort Niagara, on Lake Ontario, seven miles from Lewiston, New York.

Third Corps Area, including the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia: Tryouts to be held at Camp Meade, 18 miles southwest of Baltimore, on the B. & O.

Fourth Corps Area, including the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana: Tryouts to be held at Fort Screven, 18 miles southeast of Savannah, Ga.

Fifth Corps Area, including the States of Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, and Kentucky: Tryouts to be held at Camp Knox, 31 miles southwest of Louisville, Ky., Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio, and Fort Benjamin Harrison, 10 miles northeast of Indianapolis, Ind.

Sixth Corps Area, including the States of Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin: Tryouts to be held at Fort Sheridan, 25 miles north of Chicago, and Camp Custer, four miles west of Battle Creek, Mich.

Seventh Corps Area, including the States of Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota: Tryouts to be held at Fort Snelling, 5½ miles southwest of St. Paul, Minn., Fort Omaha, Omaha, Nebr., and Fort Des Moines, at Des Moines, Iowa.

Eighth Corps Area, including the States of Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona: Tryouts to be held at Fort Sam Houston, at San Antonio, Tex., and Fort Logan, 10 miles south of Denver, Colo.

Ninth Corps Area, including the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California: Tryouts

to be held at Fort Barry, 5 miles from San Francisco, Fort Missoula, 4 miles southwest of Missoula, Mont., Fort Lawton, 8 miles north of Seattle, Wash., Fort Douglas, Salt Lake City, Utah, Fort Rosecrans, in San Diego harbor, San Diego, Calif., and Camp Lewis, 19 miles south of Tacoma, Wash.

Under the orders of the Secretary of War, those wishing to enter the tryouts should so inform the Commanding General of the Corps Area in which they reside by letter, telephone, or personal visit. A tryout date will then be assigned to them. Those showing International Team quality then will be invited to either Quantico or Paris Island for final tryout and training without expense to themselves. In order to bring out as many of the best shots as possible, Brig. Gen. M. A. Reckord, executive officer of the National Rifle Association, which is doing the bulk of the financing for the team, announced that any individual who was unable to tryout in his own locality might come to the final tryouts at his own expense, on condition that if he made the team squad he would be reimbursed for his expenses.

* * *

WILSON HEADS DEWAR TEAM

COMMANDER E. E. WILSON, U. S. Navy, has been selected as captain of the Dewar Team which will attempt to recover the Dewar Cup lost last year to the British. Commander Wilson will select the coach within the next few weeks. Commander Wilson is already making plans to bring out the best small-bore talent in the country for the Dewar team. British shooting form is such that only by setting a new world's record can the American team recover the Dewar trophy.

Long Lost Leech Cup Recovered

THE famous Leech cup, classic trophy of American rifledom, which has been missing since the matches at Jacksonville in 1913, a period of nearly 15 years, has been recovered. To Frank J. Kahrs, of Remington goes credit for the recovery, which Mr. Kahrs announced by wire just as THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN was going to press. The historic cup is now in the offices of the Remington company, 29 Warren Street, New York City, and will be immediately forwarded to the headquarters of the National Rifle Association.



FRANK J. KAHRs



The Leech Cup



WHALING NORTH AND SOUTH

("Whaling North and South," by F. V. Morley and J. S. Hodson, The Century Co., \$3.00, for sale by AMERICAN RIFLEMAN Book Department.)

MESSRS. MORLEY AND HODSON have gone and spoiled the works for any of the writing gentlemen who want to use the whaling methods of clipper ship days as a rope with which to tie a modern adventure tale together. They have revealed what few of the run-of-mine populace knew, that Mr. Whale no longer is chased over the bounding main with a small boat and a bundle of harpoons, battled for feverish hours to the peril of boats and sailors, sometimes lost and sometimes captured, but always having about a 50-50 break in the game.

The authors of "Whaling North and South" reveal modern whaling as a highly specialized industry, boasting, in the Antarctic at least, a floating factory in which the whale is made into oil and carried to market in the most condensed form possible. Mr. Morley's share of the book is the least thrilling, but it is cramed full of information on the methods of whaling used in the north. A trained writer, Mr. Morley appears to have the trained writer's weakness of not being able to see, in perspective, the adventure of which he, himself, is a part. Mr. Hodson, whose regular job is photography, does better.

Riflemen will find the book interesting because, instead of being stabbed to death as in the old days, the whale, today, is shot, same as tiger or elephant. The shooting, of course, isn't a job for a shoulder gun. A small cannon, mounted on the prow of the whaleboat, fires a harpoon with a contact bomb on its nose. Mr. Hodson indicates that it takes a corking good shot to plug a whale in a rolling sea. He explains, also, the manner in which the whale is towed to the mother-ship of the whaleboats, which also is the floating factory. The dead whale is pumped full of air and floated alongside the whaleboat, a stout little craft of the trawler type. Once in a while a whale springs aleak. Then there's trouble.

All in all, Messrs. Morley and Hodson have written a most interesting and informative tale. Mr. Hodson's half alone, with its clean-cut etchings of the hardships and perils of life in the Antarctic, make the book a valuable addition to every out-doorsman's library.

JACK ROHAN.

THE GREAT ISLAND

("The Great Island," by Don C. Seitz, The Century Co., \$3.00. For sale by the AMERICAN RIFLEMAN Book Department.)

IT'S A LONG lane that hasn't a turning. Many years ago, when I was a young reporter hunting a job, Don Seitz turned me

down. I needed that job, and at the time voiced the pious hope that some day I'd get a chance to get even with him. Now along comes the chance. Mr. Seitz has written a book, and the same is in my hands for review. Following the custom of the alleged literati, who damn everything that's understandable, as well as everything not produced by a member of their own impecunious set, I ought to broadcast that the book is a flivver, that the style is bad, and that it shouldn't have been written anyhow.

However, I have a certain regard for truth and get a certain pleasure out of a straightforward job of well-done reporting—sans blah and affectation. Therefore it becomes necessary to forego using the hamer and sound a few blasts on the bugle for this book.

Mr. Seitz has packed 300 pages full of facts. He has boiled down to the irreducible minimum of space a cargo of information that the average writer would have spread over two or three volumes. Every sentence in the book reveals that it was done by a man who has a nice knowledge of the value both of an average reader's time and of space in the printed page; who has something to say and knows how to say it with the utmost frugality of words.

And that isn't all. He has blended figures, facts, and fancies in such fashion that the story swings along, holding it's reader from start to finish, as a big parade holds the small boy. It is a narrative that might serve as a report on Newfoundland at a meeting of the directors of a big financing corporation. At the same time it is a right useful guide for sportsmen and a tale to stave off boredom for the lads who like to do their adventuring under the reading lamp, in the big armchair by an open fire. These will find it as gripping as the flapper finds the romances of Mrs. Glynn or Mr. Arlin.

Mr. Seitz tells where the good hunting is—where the game fish bite. He tips off for the artist and nature lover the location of the rarest beauty spots. And, having a practical mind, he unlimbers the data on industrial and commercial exploitation possibilities. He produces a living picture of the island people, and incidentally gives a generous hint to the thirsty ones of the land of King Volstead. There is, it seems, some rare old port to be had on the Great Island.

I venture to guess that this little hint will result in many prominent citizens of the United States investigating the possibilities of Newfoundland development in the not distant future.

While giving a vivid picture of Newfoundland, Mr. Seitz unconsciously gives the reader a glimpse of the personality of the Don Seitz, the newspaper executive. He does it in his chapter on the Newfoundland dog. Mr. Seitz reveals a rare understanding of that prince of dogdom, the pure-blood Newfoundland, and voices a decided preference for the breed. This reviewer was born and reared in the northern Adirondacks, with two such dogs as playmates. A noble breed they were. Knowing them, one can understand why Mr. Seitz, guiding genius of a great, clean newspaper, would be fond of them. The editor of a yellow journal probably would favor a whippet, while the

gentlemen who inflict the tabloids on the public no doubt prefer the boudoir Pekinese. But, then, these latter gentlemen would not go chasing around Newfoundland's windswept shores while there are sewers to explore in New York.

Those who have a taste for blah, bunk, and incomprehensible word-pudding will have little liking for Mr. Seitz's book. On the other hand, those who want facts and truth marshalled tastefully and marched in review with snap and rhythm will thank this reviewer for advising them to get "The Great Island." Wilbur Cooper.

* * *

Gun Lovers, Wake Up!

AS THE American Rifleman goes to press the National Crime Commission, a group of well-meaning but misguided individuals who have appointed themselves keepers of the national conscience, has scrapped the model law for the regulation of hand-guns which was approved by the N.R.A. the U.S.N.R.A. and the American Bar Association. In its stead they have offered a dangerous and vicious bill, made to order for the crook and the thug as well as for the predatory political machine.

This bill provides that every person desiring to purchase a handgun must obtain a permit—and wait seven days after applying before the permit will be forthcoming, if at all. Such a provision is the opening wedge for total disarmament of the American citizen. It is obviously unfair that the man who had a gun last year should not be registered while the chap who buys one after this bill becomes a law is duly listed. The next move will be registration of all arms. Then will come confiscation.

A desperate effort is being made to railroad this bill through every State legislature. And railroaded through, it will be, unless the shooters take a hand. Whether this bill goes through or not, is up to YOU Mr. Shooter! If you content yourself with "cussing" and complaining about it it will go through, and next year you'll have a chance to either hide your gun in the haystack and shoot it in the dark of the moon, or turn it over to some police official, who will refuse you a permit when you go to register it.

There is one way to defeat this vicious bill and only one!

Sit down NOW and write your State senator and State representatives and warn them against voting for this bill.

When you have done that, get every friend and acquaintance you have to do the same.

Have every member of your gun club do the same and get their friends to do likewise.

Have your club pass resolutions and forward them to the members of your State legislature, to the governor, to the attorney-general of your State and to the adjutant general.

Induce every organization to which you belong to join you in the fight.

The bill is known as the "National Crime Commission's Pistol Bill."

It is the most vicious and dangerous bill ever offered. It will put hand-gun shooting out of business if passed. Get busy now and beat it. The least delay will mean that you are too late.

Pistol Shooting

By W. E. Fairbairn

Chief Instructor, Shanghai Police, Shanghai, China

IF YOU are keen on winning silver cups, seeing your photograph in the papers as the pistol champion, or think that pistol shooting is only a sport, you had better not trouble to read this any further, because the method described will upset your "bullseye" shooting and prevent you from ever becoming a target champion. It is written for the man who is liable to be shot at and killed at any moment. For him it ceases to become a sport but is a matter of life and death.

We hear so much about the poor shooting of the police, how they do not know one end of the gun from the other, and how, if they would only take up serious instruction on the lines as laid down for the Army and Navy there would be a great improvement.

This being so (personally I doubt it), does it not seem strange that the percentage of expert target shots with the one-hand gun of the armies and navies of the world is less than 5 per cent? Yet it is their profession and the least one should expect from professionals is a much higher percentage of efficiency. This, on the face of it, looks as if something is wrong, and the question arises, is it the method of instruction, or the men?

Everyone knows that it is the ambition of every red-blooded man to be able to use the one-hand gun. That being so—and keenness to learn is recognized as half the battle—the trouble must be in the method of instruction.

From our experience of army, navy, and police methods of instruction, which extends over the past twenty-six years, we give it as our opinion that it is the method of instruction that is wrong, not the men. There is no reason in the world why any man of average intelligence cannot become a good and safe one-hand gun shot, providing he is keen, and with the automatic pistol taking the place of the pistol and revolver, the length of time necessary to bring a man to a high standard of efficiency is considerably reduced.

Our preference for the automatic pistol is briefly as follows:

Our experience, the result of years of instructing with both weapons, has clearly shown that it takes five times the amount of ammunition to make a man as proficient with the revolver, compared with the automatic pistol, also years of practice are required with the revolver, to get used to the "feel" of the gun. Whereas the automatic pistol fits the hand, and even the novice immediately gets the feeling of a sense of direction when handling it for the first time, which is far more than the old timers can say when they first took up shooting with the old .45 Single Action.

Revolver ammunition is not so reliable as automatic pistol ammunition, the percentage of miss-fires being approximately:

Automatic pistol ammunition—1 per 10,000 rounds.

Revolver ammunition—5 per 1,000 rounds.

These figures refer to ammunition from reputable firms, not home-loaded cartridges. Further, although it may seem strange, revolver ammunition will not stand up to rough

foresight, and if your shot takes longer than a third of a second in the "let off" you are not going to be the one to tell the newspapers about it. It is obvious that the foundation of practical automatic pistol shooting is speed, and more speed.

Always bear in mind that if your shot is a tenth of a second in advance of the other man he will not hit you with his shot, and there is always this certainty that your shot will upset your opponent's accuracy in the event of its having missed.

Take the records of the New York and Chicago police and see if the average distance at which *effective shooting* has taken place, both at and by the police during the past five years—long, if you like—and we shall be surprised if it is over five feet (*not yards*). It does not take much power of imagination to see that at that distance it is a question of the greatest possible speed, and owing to the disconcerting knowledge of knowing that the other man is trying to kill you, your firing will have to be done instinctively, and the greater the volume of fire you can put in the greater the chance of your living.

We advocate in our method: Grip the pistol as if it was 30 or 40 pounds in weight. Try to imagine the target is an armed assailant who is shooting back at you. Cultivate the offensive spirit, and if your time is up—well, die fighting. When you can get that spirit into your shooting, you have some idea of what practical pistol shooting really is and the "wild and wooly West" stories you have read will appear more understandable.

WHEN you read of pistol shooting at 20, 30, and 50 yards *forget it*. If your shooting is going to be at that range, start in right away with a high-power carbine with which you could get your man long before he would have time to draw his one-hand gun, without even having to raise the carbine from the hip. Records show that the number of hits made with the one-hand gun at ranges of 20 yards and over (under practical conditions such as previously described), are so few that they are not worth worrying about.

We do not expect the expert bullseye target shots to agree with us in this method, but we are of opinion it is far and away superior (for getting effective results) to any other method we have previously seen. All we ask is that they will give it a fair trial, after which they can come back to us for all they are worth. We shall be ready for them.

The man who unavoidably kills another with a *loaded* automatic pistol does not exist. "I thought it was *not loaded*" is the usual cry. It is, therefore, obvious that the first thing in instruction is safety precautions:

The automatic pistol should be regarded as

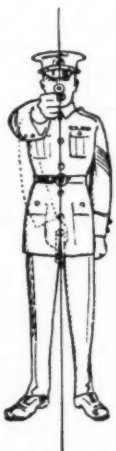


Fig. 1

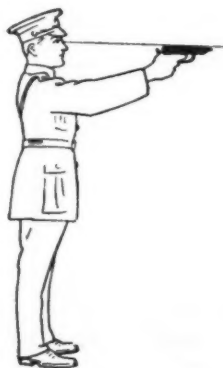


Fig. 2.

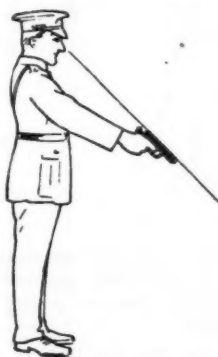


Fig. 3.

and careless handling to the extent that automatic pistol ammunition will.

We do not altogether condemn the revolver, and there are certain occasions when we would prefer to carry one in preference to the automatic pistol; such as when the gun must be carried concealed and the shooting done through the pocket or cloak; but when we are looking for our man, we want the automatic pistol on account of its greater rapidity of fire, well knowing that we can prevent the other man from firing a second shot, providing we both started off with an "even break."

To become a good automatic pistol shot, one must remember right at the start that the automatic pistol is, or should be, carried for quick work at very close range, under such conditions where it would be almost impossible to use a rifle or carbine. There will be no time to line up the backsight with the

always loaded until the magazine has been removed and the slide worked—i. e., pulled back to its full extent several times; this will eject the cartridge from the breech, should one happen to be inserted.

When a jam occurs: Keep the pistol in the firing hand, barrel pointing towards the ground at an angle of 45 degrees from the body. Remove the magazine and work the slide. It is surprising how many men would, if not prevented, look down the barrel when a jam occurs.

When carrying a pistol, loaded or unloaded, it must be held at the "ready position": arm straight at an angle of 45 degrees from the body, pistol pointing towards the ground. This is the safest method of carrying a pistol, and it allows the weapon to be brought up to the firing position much quicker than is possible from any other position; further, the fact that one is armed is not widely advertised. The pistol is not intended for use as a signaling flag.

It is advisable that a little empty pistol practice should first of all be had so as to get the feel and balance of the pistol—care being taken to prove the pistol empty.

Ready Position.—To find the correct position: Stand square with the object, feet apart, taking deliberate aim at the center of the object. When correct, lower the pistol, bring it down in a vertical line so that the pistol is in line with the center of the body. If the wrist has not been moved up or down, left or right, the correct position will be: Facing the target, arm straight, pistol a continuation of the right arm, with a *slight twist of the wrist towards the right hand side*. (Fig. 1.)

Variation in grip is a common error when firing with the automatic pistol, resulting in scattered shots. To overcome this, grip the pistol firmly as if it was 30 or 40 pounds in weight.

Note.—Attention is called to the fact that the only unnatural part of the Ready Position is the slight twist of the wrist towards the right-hand side. This twist of the wrist amounts to nothing more or less than the alignment of the sights, etc., by sense of feel, in a manner resembling that of the golfer when gripping the club before commencing the swing to drive.

KEEPING both eyes focused on the center of the object, and taking care the right thumb is straight and parallel with the bottom of the slide, raise the pistol in a smooth upward movement from the shoulder (Vertical Lift), and when it cuts the line of sight, make a pause of a fraction of a second. (Figs. 1 and 2.) Fire the pistol by releasing the trigger with an equal pressure of fingers and thumb, then immediately release the trigger to allow the sear to re-engage and return to the Ready Position (Fig. 3).

As previously stated, a shot that takes

longer to fire than one-third of a second is wasted. It is, therefore, obvious that there is not sufficient time to align the sights, in addition to bringing the pistol up to the object. All men who make 100 per cent score at surprise targets fire with both eyes open, although in some cases they are unconscious

of the hands on top, seize the slide of the pistol with the left hand, thumb on top, keep a *firm grip with the left hand and push the receiver away with the right hand* (towards the ground.) When the receiver is right forward, release the grip with the left hand and allow the recoil spring to drive the top cartridge into the breech. Turn the right wrist to the right so that the slide is on top. You will then be in the position shown in Fig. 3.

Manufacturers of automatic pistols usually in their pamphlets tell you to "pull back the slide with the left hand." This is often very difficult, especially for some men, and we have found that it is much simpler to hold the slide with the left hand stationary, left arm bent, the elbow resting against the body, and push the receiver away with the right hand. Seeing that the movement of the right hand is the initial start towards the Ready Position, we have gained time, and anything that will enable you to do that must not be neglected.

The above must be one continuous movement and should be practiced so that it can be performed in about a third of a second.

Firing Practice

First Practice (stationary man)

Target:—Man-size target, with rectangles marked in the center as follows: 4-inch by 8-inch, 8-inch by 12-inch, 12-inch by 16-inch, with a 1-inch by 1½-inch black mark in the center of the smallest rectangle, with a range of not more than 3 to 4 yards.

Charge the magazine with four rounds and load. (Fig. 3.)

Keeping both eyes focused on the black spot, raise the pistol as quickly as possible (by the vertical lift) and immediately the pistol cuts the black spot, fire two rapid shots (as rapidly as your trigger finger can be made to work), make a pause (Fig. 2), see where your shots have hit, and then come down to the Ready Position. Neither in this or any of the following practices should you see your sights, the action should be far too quick for that.

Repeat and again fire two rapid shots and return to the Ready Position and unload. To do this, hold the pistol in the right hand, back of the hand towards the ground, barrel pointing downwards to the front at an angle of 45 degrees from the body, press on the magazine catch with the thumb and catch the magazine in the palm of the left hand.

Turn the right hand over towards the left, back of the hand on top, seize the slide with the left hand, and with a forward movement of the right hand work the slide to and fro. This will extract the cartridge, should one happen to be in the breech. When certain that the barrel is empty, press the trigger, keeping the pistol pointing towards the ground. If your shots are not in the center

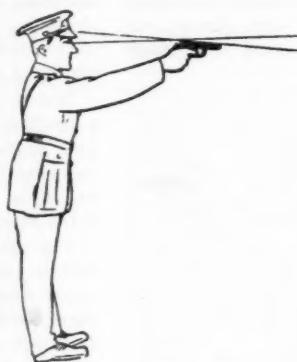


Fig. 4.

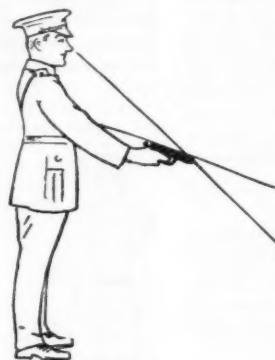


Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.

of doing so. This is the only practical way of firing a pistol, as a trial will convince anyone that with both eyes open the master eye always takes charge.

By closing one eye, the field of view is restricted. This would be fatal if you were being attacked from an unknown quarter.

Note.—Attention is called to the vertical line on Fig. 1. It will be clearly seen that when you can consistently raise and lower your pistol with the muzzle cutting this imaginary line, that you will hit anything that is in front of you.

Also, the same rule applies for shooting in the dark: It only being necessary to remember that you must keep your body square and face your object.

Having gotten the feel of the muscles in the wrist and arm so that you can consistently perform the "Vertical Lift" without having to watch your pistol, you have laid the foundation of practical pistol shooting and you are now ready to commence learning to gain time in loading.

To load, stand square with the target, holding the pistol in the right hand, back of the hand toward the ground, pistol at an angle of 45 degrees from the body, pointing toward the ground to the front, insert the magazine. Turn right hand over towards the left, back

rectangle, a glance at the diagrams will give the reason. Correct your error and fire again.

AT THIS stage you will notice that wherever you are facing your shots will go. This is because there is not sufficient time to align the sights and should help to convince you that the most natural position for the body is square with the object.

For those who find a difficulty in keeping square with the object, the following will be found to be of great help:

At the moment of raising the pistol by the Vertical Lift, advance the *left* foot, even to the extent of making a lunge. This lunge forward with the left foot will also help to cultivate the offensive spirit that is so necessary in practical pistol shooting.

Do not worry too much at this stage because one of your shots may have clean missed a man-size target. Always remember that a man hit in the region of the stomach will not fire back. If your shots have been fired as rapidly as possible, it is immaterial if it was the first or second shot that hit.

When you can consistently place one out of each string of two shots in the center or second rectangle (each string having been fired as quick as it is possible to count "one, two"), increase the range to 5 yards and re-fire.

Second Practice (Bobbing man): Man-size target, exposed up to the waist line, for one second 12-inch by 16-inch rectangle in the center; range not more than 5 yards. Charge the magazine with four rounds and load (Fig. 3).

Upon the target being fully exposed, raise the pistol as quickly as possible and fire two rapid shots, wait a pause and return to the ready position, then repeat.

When you can consistently place three out of the four shots in the 12-inch by 16-inch rectangle, you have mastered this practice.

Third Practice (running-man practice). (Run of 10 to 12 feet and 3 to 4 miles per hour.) Target, man-size; range, not more than 5 yards. Charge the maga-

zine with four rounds and load (Fig. 3).

When the target is fully exposed, fire two rapid shots as in previous practice. So as to enable you to keep your body square with the target, do not move the feet, but swing the hips, in a like manner to a clay-pigeon shot, firing at a right and left rise.

Try and remember that your shot will reach the target in approximately a fiftieth part of a second. Therefore, there is no necessity

to make any allowance and aim ahead.

For every shot that is fired and missed behind at this practice (running man), you can be sure there are 90 that have missed in front, in some cases as much as three feet. Therefore fo-

cus your attention on the part of the object you wish to hit and you will be surprised to find out how much truth there is in the saying, "You hit where you look," in the same manner as when throwing a stone or a ball.

One hit out of each string of two shots is good enough—you have got your man.

Fourth Practice (rapid loading and firing). Target, man-size. (Running man, as in No. 4). Range, 3 to 5 yards.

Pistol drawn and magazine loaded with two rounds and inserted in pistol with left hand on the slide, ready to load.

Upon the target appearing, load and fire two rapid shots. Then unload.

When you can consistently hit this target twice, the practice should be repeated, with this addition: the magazine charged with two rounds and pistol in the holster. Upon the target appearing, draw, load, and fire the two rounds. We advocate wearing the holster on the left-hand side of the belt, in front of the left arm.

The pistol is or should be, carried empty, with the magazine charged and properly inserted. From this position we have drawn, loaded, and fired, and hit in approximately one second. Those of you who have other ideas of where the holster should be worn may be converted to our way after giving it a trial. That is, you who, like the writer, carry your guns outside a uniform.

You will have noticed that we have a very poor opinion of any of the so-called safety catches, etc. On our own private guns, all of these are pinned down so that they cannot function.

Do not trust any "safety catch," or in fact anyone except yourself. You would not ever think of handing your friend a loaded shotgun by the barrel end, just because the safety lock was on, for the simple reason you, in the back of your mind, do not trust it. In a like manner cultivate a good habit in handling the automatic pistol. There is only one safety device, and that is best explained in the following lines:

*When unloaded you
THINK you be,
Please DON'T POINT your
gun at me.
That it may UNLOADED
be
Matters not a d— to me.*

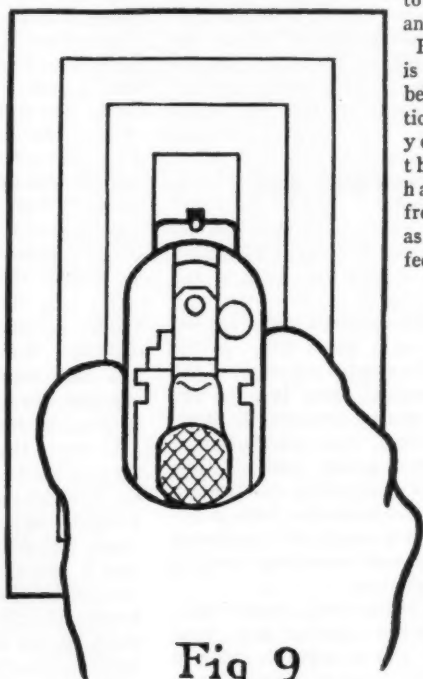


Fig 9

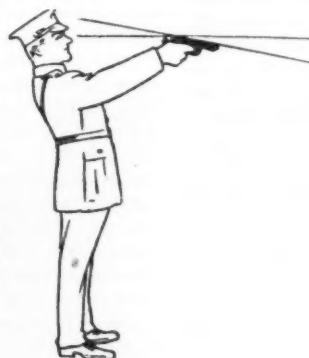
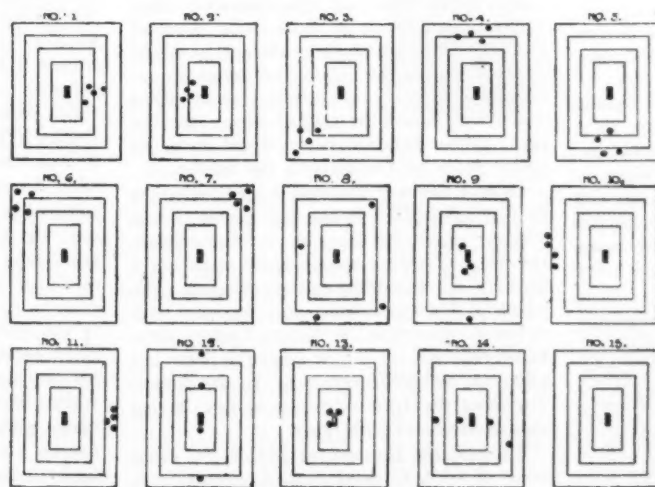


Fig. 10.



POSITION OF SHOTS ON THE TARGETS AND EXPLANATION

No. 1. A. Slack thumb pressure. B. Canted pistol. C. Incorrect grip. No. 2. A. Excessive thumb pressure. B. Canted Pistol. C. Incorrect grip. No. 3. A. Thrusting. (See Fig. 4.) B. Gun-shy. C. Not facing the target. No. 4. A. Tilted wrist. (See Fig. 5 & 6.) No. 5. A. Slack wrist. (See Fig. 7 & 8.) No. 6. A. Tilted wrist and not facing the target. (See Fig. 5 & 6.) B. Tilted wrist and canted pistol. (See Fig. 5 & 6.) No. 7. A. Tilted wrist and slack thumb pressure. B. Tilted wrist and canted pistol. (See Fig. 5 & 6.) No. 8. A. Variation in grip. B. Trying to sight. No. 9. A. Looking at the pistol instead of the target which accounts for the low shot. No. 10. A. Right cant on pistol when firing round or from behind cover. No. 11. A. Left cant on pistol when firing round or from behind cover. B. Slack thumb pressure. No. 12. A. Jerking the arm up, instead of raising it by a smooth movement from the shoulder. No. 13. A. Correct. Note—There should be a pause of a fraction of a second when the pistol cuts the line of vision. (See Fig. 2 & 3.) No. 14. A. Wrist moved from right to left. B. Moving the body from right to left. No. 15. A. Back you "Go" (See Fig. 10.)

THERE are numerous other practices that can be fired, but any intelligent man can work them out for himself, such as a "charging man" target, string of six rapid shots at any target, a succession of "surprise" targets with an occasional "don't fire" target (*i. e.*, target representing a friend), which will teach trigger control.

Any man who carries a one-hand gun should be able to walk or run with his finger on his loaded gun and still be perfectly safe.

We are aware that nearly all other methods teach that the trigger finger must be outside the trigger guard when not actually firing. We have yet to meet the man who is looking for an armed opponent who carries out this instruction. Why should he—when he is aware that it takes time to insert his finger into the trigger guard. At that particular time of his life, time is the most important thing he knows about.

When you can make 75 per cent score at any practice, increase the range by another yard up to ten yards—beyond, if you feel confident. For the policeman, guard, or householder there is very little necessity to increase the range beyond ten yards. Thirty feet is a long distance on a crowded street.

The following is the result of a test which was carried out with the automatic pistol for the purpose of testing the reliability of the pistols and ammunition:

Number of pistols, 3.

Number of rounds fired, 100 each pistol.

Target, 3 men-size targets.

Distance, average of 9 yards.

Time to fire, 1½ minute to load and fire 100 rounds per pistol.

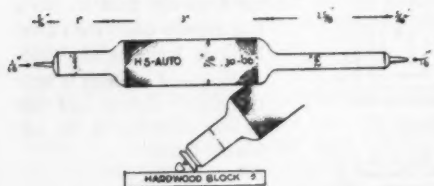
Hits, approximately 90 per cent.

This was fired by three men, and of course the magazines were previously charged.

We are of opinion that it would be almost impossible to come anywhere near these figures with a revolver.

Before concluding, we would like to point out that an instructor can instruct up to a certain point, but beyond that it depends entirely upon the firer's intelligence. There is always a reason for a "miss." Find this out and correct it and one is on the way to become an "expert." By an "expert" we mean the man who can prevent his opponent from firing.

A HANDY DE-CAPPER



I GOT tired of the old punch-and-hammer way of decapping, so I made up the little tool sketched above for the .30-06 and the .45 Auto, but of course it can be made for any cartridge, and a machinist can make it in a half hour out of a piece of ¼ cold-rolled steel and a couple of shanks of broken 1/16 drills, or 1/16 piano wire.

By sicking the empty on the tool, holding it at an angle of about 45 degrees, and giving it a gentle tap on a hard, wood block, the fired primer slips out nicely.

S. FRED SMITH, Jamestown, R. I.

Something Different in Handguns

By Philip B. Sharpe

Illustrations by the Author

AWAY back in the dim, dead past, some crank designed a handgun which he planned to replace the revolver. This consisted of a weapon having some characteristics of a single-shot pistol, firing the cartridge directly from the barrel without the cylinder used in revolvers. The arm was designed to discard the empty cartridge case and throw a live cartridge in the chamber at each pull of the trigger. And along comes some chap who called the arm an automatic pistol.

The automatic pistol was a great addition to the field of handguns. It was, the writer assumes, designed chiefly to increase the fire power of military troops. Yet it had many disadvantages as an arm for military and civilian use.

Until recently, the automatic pistol was decidedly inaccurate as a target arm. In the early days of development—and many of the arms called "automatic" have been on the market for over a quarter century—the available powders, knowledge as to construction of metal-jacketed pistol bullets, and all that, coupled with poor mechanical construction and the looseness one invariably finds in automatic or self-loading pistols, all contributed towards making the new inventions merely a weapon for close quarters.

About 1898 one of the British Army's foremost technical men had a brilliant idea. England, at that time, was enjoying an influx of two now well-known types of automatic pistols of small bore and high velocity. They were practical, even in those days. Colonel Fosbery of the British Army thought he would go the Germans one better, and design an automatic of radical construction. He had ideas which have stood the test of time—that the small caliber handgun never would have the killing power so necessary to the soldier.

Colonel Fosbery designed a weapon which he had constructed in the tool rooms of the Webley and Scott factories in Birmingham. He designed neither an *automatic pistol* nor a *revolver*, but something entirely different. The result of his experiments was the arm later to become known as the Webley-Fosbery automatic revolver. It is just what the name implies—an *automatic revolver*. In our American slang the arm is truly a hybrid, having characteristics of both types.

Through the courtesy of Mr. P. D. Johnstone of W. & C. Scott Arms Company, Inc., of New York City, the writer obtained one of these arms, and has conducted many interesting experiments. This firm is the American representative of the British firm, and to Mr. Johnstone, who was associated with the Birmingham plant for some time before coming to the New York office, the writer is indebted for the historical data within this review of the Webley-Fosbery.

The writer has distinct recollections of ancient advertisements on American "automatic

revolvers." These were made, if memory doesn't play tricks, by Hopkins and Allen and Harrington and Richardson. Truly speaking, they were misnamed, and were merely double action "automatic ejector" revolvers. But the Webley-Fosbery does everything an automatic pistol does except discard empties. Here is what happens: At the pull of the trigger the hammer falls from the single-action cocked position. The cartridge is exploded, the bullet leaves the cylinder, passes through the barrel and out, exactly the same as in any other revolver. Then we find that the recoil is utilized to rotate the cylinder to the next chamber, and leave the hammer fully cocked, ready for another shot.

The arm is designed chiefly for the .455 Cordite cartridge, the English service revolver cartridge. However, at the start, the arm was also constructed for the .38 Colt automatic cartridge, the cylinder holding eight cartridges in a special clip, illustrated with this article.

It seems that the fundamental theory of the arm was to utilize recoil. Secondly, to increase rapidity of fire. Those of us who have handled firearms know that the average revolver can be discharged much more rapidly than is *practical*. Note the use of the word "practical." There is a certain period of time between the discharge of the arm and the time the hand and arm muscles recover from the recoil sufficiently to fire another shot. And there is the point of recovering aim.

With the .455 Webley-Fosbery and the .455 Webley Mark II (the British service cartridge), I found that in seven seconds I could make as many "kills" on the Colt Silhouette Police Pistol Target. I have fired that arm about 350 times. With my .45 Colt automatic it takes me about 11 seconds to register six kills. I can fire the arm faster—in fact, I was stop-watched at 3½ seconds, but I shot all over the landscape. And I have fired that arm about 2,000 times or more, and have carried it almost daily for two years.

THE Webley-Fosbery can be target shot by an expert in much less time than I took for the big silhouette target. Back in 1901 Walter Winans fired some rapid-fire targets at Bisley with this arm, scoring a possible at 30 feet on a 2-inch bullseye in 7½ seconds. He fired 12 shots at the same range, losing but three out of the 2-inch black, time, 20 seconds, including reloading. Reproductions of these targets are in the writer's possession. And this firing was done *in competition*.

The arm is unique, and, to the American idea of firearms, is a homely weapon. Still, it has clever lines. It doesn't look as graceful as do our Colt and Smith & Wesson revolvers, yet it DOES look fully as rugged. However, it has one feature which doesn't agree with our American ideas of target shooting—it sits

very high in the hand, as one of the illustrations herewith shows.

For such a large gun—it can be compared in size with the Colt and Smith & Wesson Model 1917 Army Revolvers—it has a fine grip. The frame is wide, of course, but the rubber stocks have been flattened to overcome the size, and the arm isn't as large a handful as the .45 automatic, and can be shot by a man with a small hand without necessitating the shooter to "regrasp" the arm after each shot.

Recoil is unusual. Until one has fired the arm it would be difficult to understand. A large portion of the recoil of the .45 automatic is "mechanical recoil," in this writer's opinion. Pull back the slide on one of these guns, lock it, and then release the slide lock, causing the slide to fly forward. An understanding of mechanical recoil will thus be obtained from the heavy blow of that slide. Accordingly, this writer firmly believes that the recoil of the standard .45 automatic is about



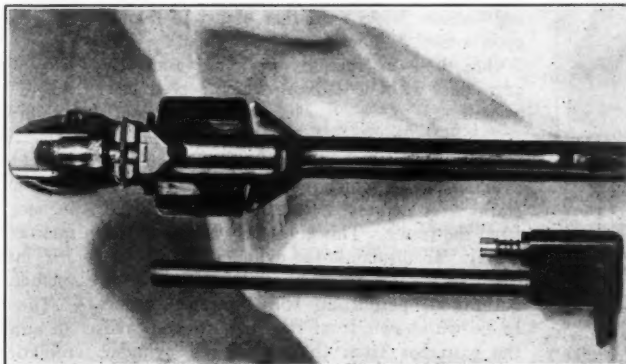
ARM WITH ADAPTER INSERTED—As a .22 shot pistol, the arm has no recoil or jump that could be noticed. Balance is nearly the same as that of the revolver, and for practical purposes difference cannot be noticed. Note thickness of cylinder walls, also the absence of the customary ratchet extractor.

the same as though it were locked and unable to recoil. The energy of recoil used to operate the slide is very nearly replaced by the mechanical jar of the recoiling member.

In the Webley-Fosbery the recoil is most unusual. It is neither like a revolver nor an automatic pistol. It is soft, even with the heaviest of loads. This is due to the action construction. In the two drawings of the action, presented with this article, one may fully understand the reasons.

In the first place, the entire top half, barrel, cylinder, hammer, and upper half of the frame assembly do the recoiling. In recoiling they must cock the hammer. This, of course, requires more energy to start backward than to finish. Accordingly, more of the recoil energy is used here, and the recoiling assembly gets under way more slowly. The lever within the grip is known as the recoiling lever, and this takes the brunt of the recoil. Then, when the top assembly has nearly reached the limit of rearward travel, which is nearly seven-

eighths of an inch, it strikes the hammer tail in such a manner that the tension of the main spring is brought into play, thus slowing up the action and acting as a buffer or shock absorber. It is due to these three "obstruc-



TOP VIEW—Note unusual features of the arm as viewed from above—the two "wings" or cylinder guards and the cylinder release button on cylinder bridge. This view also shows the Webley adapter, side view. Barrel is practically land diameter of the .455 barrel, so there is no visible looseness when inserted.

tions" that the Webley-Fosbery owes its smooth action, in our opinion.

One will probably be impressed with the zig-zag slots in the cylinder. This arm has no ratchet and hand to rotate the cylinder, as in other revolvers. A fixed stud, milled in the lower half of the frame, rides in these slots. On the backward movement, the cylinder, traveling over the fixed stud, is made to take a half turn to the next chamber. On the forward movement of the cylinder, the remainder of the turn is made, leaving the hammer cocked and the cylinder rotated to the next cartridge.

A study of the illustrations with this article will disclose two wings on the frame in front of the cylinder. The top view illustrates this best. What these were designed for the writer does not know, but they certainly do make very good guards when inserting the arm in a holster, spreading the leather so that the cylinder does not catch. As we can see no other use for them, this must have been their excuse for being included in the designer's specifications.

In the illustrations, but not in the drawings, one will notice a very efficient safety lever on the grip under the right thumb. While it is in the way for a left-handed shooter, it could

not be located in a more handy position for ordinary shooting. It is right where one wants a safety, and when raised, or "on" is thrown off with the knuckle of the right thumb very easily and quickly.

The safety bolt operates whether the hammer is at half or full cock by locking the recoiling part of the revolver to the body so that the hammer does not rest on the sear notch, but is raised and held back by the hammer stud. This operation "recoils" the assembly about 3/16 inch.

The safety bolt has one disadvantage. Like many other arms, it will not prove effective on a worn arm, and if the hammer receives a sufficiently powerful blow, will be released.

LOADING of this arm is very simple. It is of the conventional break-down of English type, and parts are very rugged.

The writer would not hesitate to fire the most powerful of hand-gun loads in this English break-down. At the local police range, where we did much of the testing, the arm proved extremely interesting to several of the officers. One of the boys summed the situation up thus: "The thing looks like a bank vault!" And it does. While no technical information is available, we would not hesitate to state that it is undoubtedly fully as strong as the solid frame type of swing-cylinder arms.

A solid lock such as this arm has might seem to be slow to manipulate, in the minds of those who are not familiar with the Webley system of break-down. The right thumb presses forward on a stirrup lever on the left side of the hammer. This is clearly shown in the rear view of the arm. This operation carries the hammer rearward to the half-cock notch, and carries the top half of the stirrup lever or bridge to the rear, making it easy to break the arm down. Shells are ejected in the customary break-down manner, the ejector returns to its place, and live cartridges inserted. In closing the arm, the locking lever



REAR VIEW—This view shows handy position of safety bolt and break-down lever and illustrates clearly the shape of the former. Also note a very important feature—the recoil plate of this revolver is a separate piece and forms the rear covering for the cylinder. This has been made large enough to prevent cartridges from slipping out of position, yet sufficiently small to clearly indicate at all times whether gun is empty or loaded. This feature is very valuable to the shooter.



THE ARM IN FIRING POSITION—Note how high the revolver sits in hand. Also note the handy position of safety bolt where it has just been thrown off with knuckle joint of thumb instead of ball. The hammer is at full cock, and has an exceedingly short throw, which, together with its stiff main spring, should give quick "lock time". Arm sits well in small hand of writer, and trigger has very deeply beveled sides, assuring smooth action when pressed even from an angle. Sharp edges on American triggers often make it necessary to grasp arm "just so" as one finds by experience.



THE WEBLEY-FOSBERY .455 CORDITE AUTOMATIC REVOLVER—This view clearly illustrates the general design of the weapon. Note handy location of safety bolt, the ever-ready break-down lever, and short trigger throw. Hammer is in half-cock notch. There is no "hammer rebound" to withdraw the firing pin from primer dent, recoil doing this by cocking the arm. The arm has the appearance of great height in this picture, which seems to be the first impression of anyone who sees the weapon. The ammunition illustrated is, left, the Winchester .455 Colt with tip of bullet trimmed by the writer, center, the .450 Winchester Center Fire, and, right, bullet only, from Winchester .455 Colt, weight .265 grains, deep conical base account for length.

automatically rides over the rear end of the cylinder bridge.

The operation of the safety bolt in no way interferes with the break-down action, and may be placed "on" or locked before breaking the gun. Also, the hammer may be left at full cock when reloading, the safety being either off or on.

Due to the type of construction, the cylinder is not free to spin at any time. This has many advantages. These will be discussed later.

When Colonel Fosbery brought out his first model, it had a peculiar habit of skipping a chamber every now and then. What the cause of this was it not known, but the theory advanced was that the arm occasionally for some unaccountable reason, recoiled twice on one shot, thus causing the cylinder to make two zig-zag trips over the fixed stud. This was overcome after the first few experimental models were constructed, and over 25 years on the market has proved the reliability of the arm.

The Colonel intended the arm to be a military weapon, but failed to persuade the Powers That Be in Great Britain to adopt it. Possibly they were justified. The British service revolver is as near fool-proof as is possible to make a revolver. In the hands of a man who understands firearms, the Webley-Fosbery is simple. To the average soldier it would be a source of continuous trouble. Regulations of any army prohibit the complete dismantling of all arms, yet I need not mention to the old soldier how closely these regulations are respected. Tampering with the action of this arm might damage it, or injure the sear mechanism to such an extent that the arm

would function like a machine gun, emptying the full cylinder at one press of the trigger.

In some data loaned the writer by Mr. Johnstone, was a pamphlet published on the arm when it was yet young. On one page we find data under the title, "Directions for Taking Asunder." As we rather object to taking good arms "asunder," we found that by following these instructions we could take the arm apart without damage, which served just as well.

For ordinary cleaning the arm need not be taken apart. A small checked stud on the cylinder bridge, which may be noticed in illustrations, is depressed and the cylinder lifted from the frame. This gives easy access to the barrel. To dismantle the cylinder assembly is easy, as the forward end of the extractor is unscrewed, permitting the extractor spring to be withdrawn from the forward end, and the extractor from the rear. The cylinder may then be cleaned with water with absolute security.

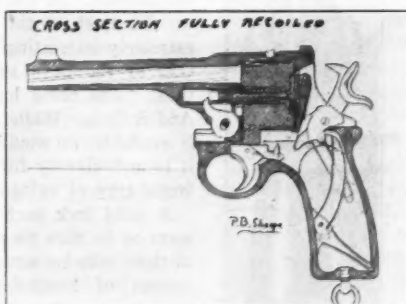
Always trying to be a bit unique, the Webley factory has designed a most novel attachment which they call an "aiming tube." In reality it is a .22 caliber adaptor, and changes the .455

awkwardly high rear sight. The arrangement gives a 7¼-inch barrel.

Here are a few specifications of the Webley-Fosbery: Weight of gun, empty, 40 oz.; weight of cylinder assembly, 8 ounces; weight ounces; weight of gun loaded, 44½ ounces; of six rounds of Winchester .455 Colt ammunition, 4½ ounces; weight of six rounds of Remington .455 Webley Mark II, 4¼ ounces; weight of arm without cylinder, 32 ounces; weight of .22 aiming tube, 7½ ounces; weight of arm as a .22 pistol, 39½ ounces length of barrel, 6 inches—(a 1921 catalogue lists it also in 4-inch);—length of revolver, 10½ inches; length of revolver, diagonally from muzzle to butt, 12 inches; length of cylinder, 1¼ inches; depth of revolver, 6 inches, not including swivel.

The action is far more flexible than that of an automatic pistol. The pressure of an automatic pistol cartridge has to be definite. If there is too much powder, there is a danger of wrecking the action. If not enough, the arm fails to function. The Webley-Fosbery will function a variety of loads, and to the handloader is as practical as an ordinary revolver. Several standard factory loads are

readily available for the arm. One may reload with a bullet projecting too far from the mouth of the shell to be operated in the cylinder. As the cylinder does not revolve until the top half of the arm is recoiled, either through discharge, or by hand, one may break the arm and load it single shot into the chamber directly



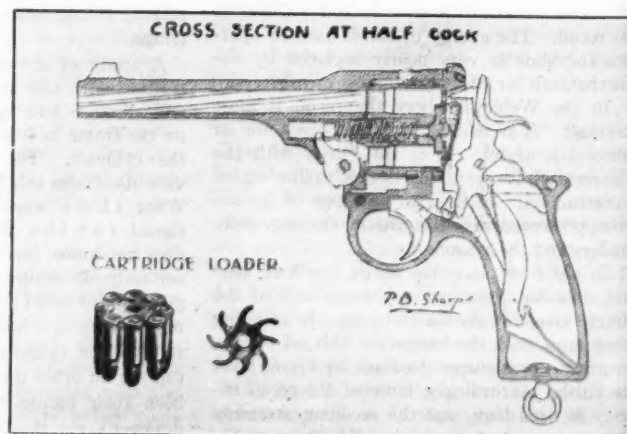
WEBLEY RIFLING TYPES—In the .455 caliber barrel, a type of revolver barrel rifling seldom seen in this country is used. The land has a square faced biting side, the other, which carries none of the strain of rotating the bullet, being gracefully rounded. This greatly assists in cleaning. The .22 barrel is rifled along similar lines, but the shoulder of the land is cut on a "straight taper" and grooves are unique in that they have a flat bottom.

revolver to a .22 single-shot pistol handling the .22 long rifle cartridge. We have fired this attachment several hundred rounds and find that at fifteen yards the arrangement of boring is such that the bullet rises to the line of sight. This has recently been adopted by the British Army for training purposes.

The top view of the revolver shows this attachment on its side. Another view shows the tube inserted in the arm. To change the .455 revolver to a .22 pistol, all that is necessary is to lift out the cylinder, slide the .22 tube down the barrel, and close the breech. The tube carries its own sight, higher than normal. The tube is bored off center, or from the bottom of the breech to the center at the muzzle, thus causing the bullet to rise from its low elevation, into the line of sight. This eliminates a very

in back of the barrel.

Black powder functions as well as smokeless for the first thirty rounds. And it is surprising how little standard factory black powder loads foul the barrel.



AMMUNITION tested in the arm included Winchester, Remington, Dominion, and two or three Kynoch. Of the loads, Winchester's .455 Colt was the most powerful, but

the bullet is about 3/33 of an inch too long, and the points must be filed before they will function in the cylinder. However, they may be used single shot for slow fire, "as is." It is interesting to note the variety of cartridges which are adapted to the .455 caliber. This includes the .455 Webley Cordite, the .455 Black, the .455 Colt, the .45 Webley, and the .450 revolver. The table prepared on this ammunition gives data on the various loads. And it is surprising the quantity of boards consumed in securing penetration figures. Boards were 7/8 inch completely seasoned soft pine, spaced one inch apart.

It is well to remark that the .45 Webley should not be fired in the arm except in case of emergency. This case is several thousandths smaller in diameter than the .450 and .455 calibers, and might rupture.

In dismantling the revolver, we were impressed with the very fine mechanical work and heavy construction. The cylinder is larger than that of the .45 Colt and New Service arms, as to diameter, and while this is partially caused by the slots milled in the surface to revolve the arm, there is a surplus of metal for strength everywhere. The interior

work, out of sight, is as carefully milled as that on the exterior. And nothing pleases us better than a well-made arm.

However, the Webley-Fosbery, like any other firearm, has its faults. The blueing is remarkable, high polished, and attractive, but has been exposed to wear without cause. This is on the barrel, whose sides have been milled flat. This gives a corner which doesn't give the blueing a fair chance at a long and attractive life. Another thing is the muzzle. While our accepted custom is to round the muzzle of a gun and blue it, the rifling to be slightly chamfered, the English construction is to cut the barrel off absolutely square and polish the muzzle. The edges of the muzzle are thus exposed to blows which might damage the rifling and cause imperfect delivery of the bullet. The .22 adapter has not been treated in this manner, but is rounded in American fashion.

The diameter of the particular barrel the writer had was .452 in the grooves, and the lands, .440. Six narrow lands, about 1 turn in 12 inches. Cylinder rotation is right-hand, same as Colt. Twist, right-hand. The .22 barrel has seven lands, narrow, similar to the

.455. Diameter in grooves is .2206, in lands, .2182. It is interesting to note the small size of this barrel. The .22 Springfield rifle has tolerances for lands from .2180 to .2185, and groove diameter from .2223 to .2235. It will be noticed that the Webley is smaller. Also this small size is apparent, as the chamber is large and the lead to the rifling clearly shows flat bottom grooves.

While this arm has been more or less designed as a target arm, it seems to be readily adapted as a woods firearm. It can be, and the writer has carried it quite a few evenings without a holster, by inserting it in the belt. However, its weight and size are such that it is primarily a holster arm. Its price in the United States is very little more than that of the Colt New Service Target, including duty. And, considering its flexibility, and the fact that reloading tools, are obtainable in this country, together with the fact that both loaded ammunition and components may be obtained from Dominion, Winchester, and Remington, makes it an arm which the American experimenter would be pleased to own.

COMPARISON OF VARIOUS WEBLEY-FOSBERY LOADS

Make	Cartridge	Bullet Weight	Bullet Diameter	Bullet Length	Powder	Muzzle Velocity	Muzzle Energy	Penetration	Remarks
Winchester	.450 C.F.	230 grains	.453	19/32 inch	16 grains FFG Black	600 f.s.	184 f.lbs.	3 boards	Outside grease. Dirty to handle. Good Target load. Too smoky for indoors.
Winchester	.455 Colt	265 grains	.456	7/8 inch	17 grains FFG Black	675 f.s.	270 f.lbs.	5 1/2 boards	Too dirty for continued firing. Fairly comfortable to shoot. Powerful Outdoor load. Bullet has deep conical base.
Winchester	.455 Colt	265 grains	.456	7/8 inch	Hercules Pyro Pistol	755 f.s.	335 f.lbs.	7 boards	Both Winchester .455 Colt loads are too long to operate in cylinder. About 1/10 inch must be trimmed off with knife. This is a very powerful load. Compare with .45 Colt. Stubby conical base. Should make best killer of all available loads.
Remington	.450 Target	226 grains	.452	7/8 inch	13 grains FFFFG Black	600 f.s.	183 f.lbs.	3 boards	Inside lubricated. A very clean and neat black powder load. Fine grain powder gives less apparent fouling and less recoil. Very good for outdoor target work. 50 shots possible without cleaning. Conical base bullet.
Remington	.455 Webley Mark II	275 grains	.455	7/8 inch	Bullseye or du Pont No. 5	600 f.s.	228 f.lbs.	5 boards	British Service load. Accurate, but much less powerful than .455 Colt. Recoil very light. Deep conical base bullet. Taper of bullet is straight on sides. See Remington catalogue.
Remington	.45 Webley	230 grains	.450	.....	20 grains FFG Black	750 f.s.	230 f.lbs.	5 1/2 boards	EMERGENCY LOAD ONLY. Case of this load is .008 smaller than that of .450 and .455 loads. Will operate, but permits smoke and flame to back around sides of case, making arm very dirty.
Dominion	.455 Service	.....	.....	15/16 inch	Black and Smokeless	.....	.....	.....	This load, British Service load, discontinued in favor of the more powerful .455 Colt.
Dominion	.455 Match	222 grains	.455	.....	du Pont No. 5 Pistol	730 f.s.	226 f.lbs.	3 1/2 boards	Wad cutter bullet. Full charge. The best target load for all ranges up to 50 yards. Due to its power and style of bullet, this should make the best killer of the tribe. Note velocity and penetration. Gives terrible smashing blow.
Dominion	.455 Colt	272 grains	.455	15/16 inch	du Pont No. 5 Pistol	740 f.s.	334 f.lbs.	7 boards	The most widely used Canadian revolver load, mostly in Colts. Is 1/10 inch too long to operate in cylinder of Webley-Fosbery, although it functions in regular Webley's. Can be trimmed with knife or file, or used "as is" for single-shot target work. Has straight taper bullet similar to Remington .455 Mark II, and Kynoch Mark II. Conical base. Should make a good killer.
Kynoch	.450 Revolver	225 grains	.451	.....	660 f.s. Black	13 grains	217 f.lbs.	5 boards	A powerful load. Not so good as the Remington .450, although it has more power.
Kynoch	.450 Revolver	325 grains	.451	.....	6 grs. Neonite (Nitrocellulose)	710 f.s.	252 f.lbs.	5 boards	A very fine load for target and field use. Not available on American market. Must be imported.
Kynoch	.455 Revolver	265 grains	.455	.....	18 grains Black	710 f.s.	296 f.lbs.	5 boards	A good but dirty load.
Kynoch	.455 Service	265 grains	.455	.....	7 grains Cordite	600 f.s.	212 f.lbs.	5 boards	British Service load. Cordite powder hard on soft steel barrel.
Winchester	.45 Colt	255 grains	.455	.....	Hercules Pyro Pistol	770 f.s.	335 f.lbs.	5 1/2 boards	For comparison.
Winchester	.45 Auto	230 grains	.4505	.....	.....	810 f.s.	335 f.lbs.	7 boards	For comparison.

All .450 and .455 Cartridges may be fired in the .45 Single and Double Action Colt Revolver.

Copper-Coated Shot

By Charles Askins

I'll start in by giving an extract from "Modern Sporting Gunner," by Henry Sharp, published in London about twenty years ago:

"**Hardness.**—Personally I prefer chilled shot, because pellets of this nature withstand much better than soft shot the tremendous impact of the powder explosion, the friction against the bore of the barrel, and the violent hustling and compression received in passing through the cone, and, in case of choke, through the constricted portion of the barrel. Crushing of the pellets exists in greater or less degree with all guns as now bored. This deformation is much accentuated in case of small, soft shot. Mr. Leslie Taylor is now concentrating a considerable amount of attention upon the boring of guns in a special way in order to mitigate the evil, or practically remove the hindrance to good shooting. This means much to the sportsman; any considerable reduction in the number of malformed, ill-flying pellets would result in a far greater percentage of game being brought to hand. Moreover, such game would be killed outright, instead of merely wounded and afterward chased half way across moor or manor before capture.

"To place 300 round pellets in a 12-bore and promptly knock out 100 or more of them from all resemblance to their original condition is a pure waste of energy and material. If any one will carry out the simple experiment of counting the number of pellets in, say, No. 6 shot cartridge, and will then fire at a target six feet square at a distance of 50 yards, he will find some pellets missing when the marks on the target are totaled up. From some cause or other the missing ones have been unable to preserve a course sufficiently straight to reach even a target six feet square. Probably they are the battered and flattened pellets that have flown off on a tangent. These are the missiles that cause those seemingly unaccountable accidents in the shooting field, sometimes wounding man or dog, that but for the erratic flight of such shot would have been well out of danger. To reduce the number of such accidents would in itself be an achievement worthy of the highest commendation, whilst to reduce the number of deformed pellets in a marked degree must have for its result a most valuable increase in the efficiency of the shotgun."

I was interested at that time in trying to reduce pellet deformation, under the theory that Mr. Sharps states—that is, pellet injury was accountable for the loss of 30 per cent of the shot that we put into a gun. I wrote Westley-Richards, therefore, to see what he was doing to a gun to prevent it from deforming shot. All he was doing was to polish the bore, and that is all that any other gun-maker has ever done either, from that time to this.

In his studies of the shotgun, E. M. Sweetley quickly reached the same conclusion as the rest of us, that we couldn't get patterns above

about 75 per cent because so many shot were deformed that they couldn't reach the 30-inch circle even at forty yards. It was his conviction that not only 30 per cent, but a good deal more than that, were being knocked out by crimp, cone, bore, and choke. He went to work to remedy the matter by producing a shot jacket, a relief wad, and a pneumatic wad. He went further and designed a barrel which was to be over-bored, thus relieving some of the severe cone action. None of Sweetley's schemes proved practical for the machine loader, and we are all shooting machine loads today. His over-bored barrel came into use and is known as the Super-Fox and the Long-range Smith.

The first marked and practical relief came with the use of progressive burning powder in Western Super X shells. This powder did not give the shot such an infernal jam as they entered the bore, and the result was that we straightway got such patterns as we had never had before. In spite of everything that could be said against them, Super X cartridges and progressive powders stayed with us, and the Super X cartridge is made by everybody today, under one name or another. Progressive powder saved a certain percentage of the shot that had previously been knocked out, and no question at all we got 80 per cent patterns where we had previously been forced to be content with 70 per cent.

By using a shot jacket or some other means of preventing shot deformation we could raise that 80 per cent to ninety, which led many of us to believe that if it was all due to shot injury, and if chilled shot were much less injured than soft shot, why not make the shot yet harder? Just how this was to be brought about we didn't know. Most of us would have said, put tin into 'em, or something else that will harden lead.

All along with this trailed the question of shot-string. Shot-string had been measured in one way or another since the advent of smokeless powder. The Western Cartridge Company adopted what appears to be an absolutely accurate device for measuring the length of shot string, which has been of great help to them in developing ammunition. None of us likes the idea of shooting a long, trailing pattern of shot, of which no more than half might land on the mark before it passed out of reach, notwithstanding the paper target showed a good pattern. Progressive powder materially shortened the string, by materially lessening the number of shot which were deformed, and this led the Western people ultimately to develop copper-coated shot. Now the secret is out. We are writing of copper-coated shot, which are very like copper-jacketed bullets.

I AM giving herewith what the company has to say about Super X and other loads with copper-coated shot. Now, let me add that I have absolute faith in the accuracy of

figures furnished by the Western Cartridge Company, and any other of our big cartridge companies. Their figures are always rigidly accurate, and I'd take them in preference to those of any individual whatsoever. Here are Western Cartridge Company figures in the results secured with copper shot:

"In casting about for means of reducing shot string, the idea of coating the shot with copper was hit upon. We found that the idea gave us most remarkable results, not only with shot, but with projectiles for rifled arms as well.

"From the very first the results obtained showed that we could expect not only a reduction in string but an increase in patterns, and also a slight increase in velocity with practically no increase in pressure. There is also a tendency toward a slight reduction in the extreme variation in velocity.

"Now to be specific: On a test conducted with bulk powder trap loads, using drop, chilled, and coated shot, also the same combinations with progressive burning powder trap loads, our results show as follows:

Powder	Load	Velocity	Ex. Var.	Press.	Pattern
Bulk	3-1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Drop	858	38 ft.	9,543 55.4%
Bulk	3-1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chil.	867	42 ft.	9,655 63.2%
Bulk	3-1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cop'r	870	29 ft.	9,543 77.2%
Super X	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -4	Drop	990	62 ft.	9,251 53.5%
Super X	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -4	Chil.	990	30 ft.	9,365 62.4%
Super X	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -4	Cop'r	998	28 ft.	9,251 81.5%
Super X	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -4	Cop'r	998	28 ft.	9,991 81.3%
Super X	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -4	Cop'r	995	43 ft.	10,118 82.5%

"All of the above were shot from standard pump guns. The 97 Model Winchester barrel was the principal one used. As to what they will do in standard double guns, eight tests, 10 shots to the test, show a mean of means for the 3-inch Super X load of four chilled, as shot from a heavy, long-range gun, as follows:

Left Barrel,	81.3%	Right Barrel,	79.6%
Ave. of 10	80.5%	Each group of 10	83.3%
shots	77.4%	shots shows a	81.8%
	83.5%	mean of means.	82.5%
	74.5%		81.5%
	79.5%		81.5%
	83.4%		81.5%
	82.2%		82.5%

"As to results obtained at the longer ranges, also at ranges under 40 yards, we find in a series of tests with the 3-inch Super X load of four shot fired from the same gun as follows:

25 Yards	98.5%
30 Yards	98.5%
40 Yards	84.3%
50 Yards	68.2%

"In other words, at 50 Yards we now get a pattern which used to be regarded as an average full-choke pattern at 40 yards. Attached is a photostat showing the average difference in the length of string between a standard load and a Super X of No. 2, copper coated."

SO MUCH for Western Cartridge Company tests. Now for my own figures. I didn't shoot so many rounds as the company didn't have time. The first test was in a Remington pump gun, full choke, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch or regular Super X shells, No. 4 copper shot, 30-

inch circle, 40 yards. The number of No. 4 shot in the load, according to my count, was 184.

178	160
167	167
155	171
149	149
179	163
Ave. 163.8	
89%	

This Remington pump is a very fine shooting gun, being normally better than 80 per cent. Patterns are given as shot.

Just why one gun should get licked badly at 40 yards and then turn the tables at 60 yards I do not know. However, the 135 pattern was a freak and couldn't be expected to happen very often. I believe that on further tests of greater length the gun would not have averaged more than 110 pellets, but this is high. Anything above 50 per cent at 60 yards is very good.

pose that about marks the difference in the two cartridges.

The only surprising thing to me about the results secured was that I didn't get one hundred per cent patterns. I surmise that notwithstanding these copper shot are very hard as compared with any other shot, yet a certain percentage of them are deformed anyhow. All of us who have studied shotgun



Super-X 2 Ch. DuPont Oval

64 pellets =	100% in 11.8 feet
61 pellets =	95% in 7.62 feet
58 pellets =	90% in 6.72 feet
54 pellets =	85% in 5.27 feet

Super Fox. Super X Copper shot, No. 4, 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ ounces, 196 pellets as counted. Distance 40 yards, 30 inches:

172	
151	Ave. 164
153	83.67%
174	
170	

It is to be seen that my results with the Super Fox were not much different from those obtained by the factory. The patterns were good without being startlingly high in percentage.

Ithaca 10-ga., Super X, 10-bore shells, 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ oz. No. 4 copper shot, 30-inch, 40 yards. The Ithaca had been modified to the extent of five thousandths of an inch to prevent shot deformation.

Patterns	
204	(235 pellets to load)
207	Ave. 203
194	86.4%
204	
210	

Remington gun, same load as before, 60 yards, 30 inches.

Patterns	
78	
88	Ave. 81 2/5
79	44%
75	
87	

Fox Super X, No. 4 copper, 3-inch, 60 yards, 30 inch.

Patterns	
135	
107	114 3/5
116	58.7%
105	
120	

The Fox gun came to life at 60 yards.



Super-X 2 Ch. Cop. Ctd. DuPont Oval

100% = 79 pellets in 7.34 feet	90% = 71 pellets in 5.49 feet
95% = 75 pellets in 6.50 feet	85% = 67 pellets in 4.76 feet

Ithaca 10-ga., 60 yards, 235 pellets of No. 4 copper.

Patterns	
116	
113	Ave. 123
140	52.3%
130	
116	

The big gun should have beaten the Fox about 20 pellets in the average pattern at 60 yards, but didn't. It would be very likely to do so, however, on an extended test. It is accepted that a pattern of 100 No. 4 shot is ample for duck killing. On this basis the Fox would have gone well beyond 60 yards, and the 10 might have "carried on" to 75.

I remember that when testing the original Super X cartridges with No. 4 shot that the pattern was 148. The copper-coated shot has jumped that to the extent of 16 shot. I sup-

performances have felt so assured that if we ever got shot hard enough, 100-per-cent patterns were right at hand that I want to know the reason why we do not get 'em now. That is one of the things I mean to find out, if I can. Now don't misunderstand, an average percentage of 89 is not bad, and one of the Remington patterns lacked but five pellets of putting them all in the thirty-inch circle, but what I am looking for and what the Western Cartridge Company is going to get after a time is 100 per cent in the 30 inch. I do not know that they are going to get it with the powder now used, but they will find a powder that will do the trick, without cutting the thousand feet of velocity, or much exceeding a breech pressure of four tons.

Certain questions may bob up in the minds

of my readers. Will copper shot foul the gun? I haven't been able to see it, and I doubt it. Copper-jacketed bullets have been in use a long time, and nobody has ever found that they fouled a gun to anything like the extent that lead fouled it. Besides, the bullets are driven at three thousand feet under a pressure of 50,000 pounds, as compared with the shot at one thousand feet, under a pressure of 8,500 pounds, which ought to make considerable difference. The heat and the friction developed by a shot load is very small compared with a high intensity rifle.

Will the copper shot poison the flesh of a game bird? Nothing to that! Copper is not more poisonous than lead, and we have been testing that copper poisoning business this many years on venison. Nobody ever got the stomach ache from eating game that had been shot with a lubaloy bullet, so far as I have ever heard.

The bulk of the shot are now found in a shot string about 4 feet long, using copper shot. This insures that all those shot are going to land on a duck, no matter how fast he is flying, for the shot will be traveling about ten times as fast as the bird, and he couldn't go more than four inches from the time the first shot of such a string landed until the last of them hit him. Eventually the Western Cartridge Company is going to cut the length of that string until all pellets will be traveling in a two-foot group at forty yards. This is about what the company will be working for now, a pattern containing all shot in a 30-inch circle, with a string no more than 30 inches long.

When all this happens, how far are we going to be able to kill ducks? The Lord knows, I don't! Probably a lot farther than we can hit 'em. Given such loads as these we have now in copper shot, and a lot of us will have to begin learning to hit long-range ducks.

I'd like to add, in conclusion, that these copper-coated shot may not be confined to duck loads. They may be used in all loads, and will work just as much improvement in trap cartridges and in small-bore guns as they will in powerful arms in duck shells. I understand that even rifle bullets may receive the copper coating treatment, and maybe two-inch groups at a hundred yards will become too simple to merit any attention.

I shot one pattern with a trap load containing three drams of bulk powder and 1¼ ounces of coated 7½ in the Remington gun. That was the prettiest trap pattern and the prettiest any other kind of pattern that I ever saw anyhow. It counted 406. A friend of mine got a cylinder barrel, and in testing it to see the pattern before going quail shooting, used one of these copper-coated trap cartridges. The pattern of that Remington cylinder barrel was so good that we concluded he had been sent a modified choke by mistake. Anyhow, I told him, "You have the prettiest shooting cylinder barrel that I ever saw shot, and had better stick to it, even though it does shoot too close." I conclude from the little I have seen of patterns shot with these trap loads that shotguns of all bores are going to come pretty close to being stepped up one

degree of choke. Might be wrong about that, but it looks that way to me now.

Eric Johnson says, "Dog gone 'em, they are going to revolutionize the whole shotgun and small rifle ammunition trade with their con-founded copper shot." It looks that way to me now!

N. R. A. Directors Meet

(Continued from page 7)

The treasurer's report was made by General Reckord, in the absence of the banker selected last year as treasurer. General Reckord based his report on the audit made by Barrett, Linn, Snider & Co., certified public accountants.

This showed the Association to be in excellent financial condition. The auditor's analysis of the condition of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN revealed that, whereas the deficit of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN for 1925 was \$7,188.50, and the deficit at the end of February, 1926, had been \$2,045.65, it had finished the year with a net loss on all its operations of \$1,263.14, indicating that it had practically broken even for the last ten months of the year.

Two amendments to the by-laws were made:

Article 2, Section 2-b, was amended so that organizations composed of clubs affiliated as a league or an association may affiliate with the National Rifle Association for an annual fee of \$10, initial \$10 to cover affiliation and one year's dues.

Article 3, Section 3-c, was amended to require a quorum of 20 directors instead of 15. This was in compliance with the requirements of the New York State law.

After a discussion of the small-bore rules, in which Russel Wiles, Frank Kahrs, Maj. K. K. V. Casey, Col. A. B. Critchfield, Colonel Waterbury, and Major Parker participated, Colonel Macnab moved that the matter be left to the decision of the executive committee. This was done.

Meetings of Executive Committee

THE retiring executive committee of the National Rifle Association wound up its affairs at a meeting on January 28. Col. A. J. Macnab, Jr., stated that the report of the committee on rifle matches was not ready. The committee instructed the executive vice-president to write the secretary of the International Shooting Union, advising him that the N.R.A. wanted rifle shooting reinstated in the Olympic games, and would support for president of the International Shooting Union only a candidate who would make such reinstatement part of his platform.

The committee voted to arrange for a convention of State secretaries and rifle club secretaries in connection with the National Matches at Camp Perry in 1927. The president was authorized to make the necessary arrangements for such convention.

The appeal of Frank W. Rogers from the decision of the executive officer in charge of the small-bore range at Sea Girt in 1926 was denied and the executive officer's award of the small-bore Wimbledon to Henry Gussman upheld. The appeal was made after the executive officer, in deciding a tie, ruled that the

"V" should be the shot of higher value. Mr. Rogers held that it should not. The executive committee upheld the executive officer and reiterated the rule that in deciding ties, counting the inverse order of the shots, the "V" should be considered the shot of higher value.

The newly elected executive committee held its meeting on January 29. A committee of five, consisting of Colonel Macnab, Commander Wilson, Major Keyser, Colonel Waterbury, and General Reckord, was appointed to draw up a schedule for the guidance of the director of civilian marksmanship in making his future estimates.

The committee ruled that, although there had been arrangements for tryouts for the International Team in every locality, provision for those who might not be able to attend these tryouts should be made. It was recorded as the sense of the committee that any N.R.A. member unable to attend the preliminary tryouts in his own locality might attend the final tryouts at his own expense, provided that if he made the team squad he would be reimbursed for such expenses.

A committee composed of General Reckord, Colonel Macnab, and Major Keyser was appointed to recommend team officers for the International Free Rifle Team and the Dewar Team for 1927.

The committee decided that, instead of making cash prizes in certain matches contingent on the entry fees, a fixed cash prize be hung up for these events. Operation of the rule was left to the Match committee.

By vote of the committee the special tyro matches and the special tyro classifications in the National Matches were eliminated. This action was based on the unanimous opinion of members of the committee that none of those who attend the National Matches are tyros in the strict interpretation of that classification.

A proposal to regard as final the total score shown on competitors' cards was referred to the match committee.

The small-bore rule, placing the responsibility for each target having the required number of shots clearly visible on the individual making that target, a ruling which in operation does not limit the shots that may be fired to complete the target, was referred to the match committee. This rule has been the subject of considerable discussion.

The following match committee was appointed: Colonel Macnab, Major Waller, Major Parker, Commander Wilson, and Mr. Lisfer. This committee will act in an advisory capacity to the executive committee.

Meeting of National Board

The National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice met in the office of the Assistant Secretary of War on January 29. Routine business was speedily disposed of and a discussion of plans for the increasing of Camp Perry facilities held. It was the sense of the meeting that efforts should be made for an arrangement with the Ohio National Guard authorities whereby the pistol and small-bore facilities of the Camp Perry range can be substantially increased.

Team Training For the National Matches

THE following letter of advice was prepared by Col. A. J. Macnab for the benefit of the captain of a rifle team which was about to begin its training for the National Matches. It is believed to be of general interest, both to teams and to individuals who contemplate taking part in the 1927 National Matches.

The letter does not attempt to outline a full and complete course of team training with all of the elements which go with it. The usual procedure as to zeroing rifles, methods of cleaning and caring for arms, wind doping, long-range coaching, etc., are so well known that it was not thought necessary to touch upon them. It is confined to the things which are usually left undone by the teams which are in training for the big matches; important items, the neglect of which has been the undoing of many a team and individual in the past, and no doubt will be the undoing of many a team and individual in the future.

For the convenience of the readers, the paragraphs of the regulations referred to in Colonel Macnab's letter of advice are quoted at the end of his letter, which follows:

"February 7, 1927.

"MY DEAR _____:

"When the men who are to try out for the team arrive, they should not begin their training with range practice. One of the decided faults noted in the service teams of the past few years has been the lack of training in, or at least a lack of compliance with, the fundamental, the basic, principles of good shooting. For this reason the candidates should be required to qualify in the fundamentals before taking up range practice. These fundamentals are clearly laid down in 'Training Regulations 150-5,' and consist of aiming, positions, trigger squeeze, bolt manipulation, rapid-fire practice, going to the prone position rapidly—in fact, all of the mechanics of good shooting. This does not mean that they will have to go through a full course of preparatory training as laid down in 'Training Regulations 150-5.' They should, however, be given a short refresher course in the preparatory training, and each man should be required to qualify in each phase and element of that training before range practice begins.

"To be of any benefit, this preliminary training must not be gone through in a perfunctory manner or as a disagreeable piece of work required by higher authority which it is desired to finish up as soon as possible in order to get down to real training. They should be convinced that this work is real training and is a necessary preliminary step to range firing which all of the famous old-time shots put themselves through at the beginning of each period of preparation for the big matches.

"In the last National Team Match some members of one of the service teams were

visibly jerking the trigger—so much so that the first pair to shoot registered *two misses at two hundred yards*. If they had been thoroughly instructed in the principles of the correct method of pressing the trigger as laid down in 'Training Regulations 150-5,' and had been convinced that this is the one and only correct method, such a thing as missing the target completely could never have happened.

"The method of pressing the trigger, as described in 'Training Regulations 150-5,' is the one used by all excellent shots, either consciously or unconsciously. The ones who use this method unconsciously—by this I mean the ones who do not know or do not believe that the trigger should always be pressed in such a way as not to know the exact instant of discharge—are laboring under a handicap.

"Any shooter will, at times, apply the last ounce of pressure too hastily—with a sudden pressure instead of a steady pressure—and the unconscious bracing for the recoil which invariably accompanies such a pressure will throw his shot out of the black. This bracing is entirely unconscious, and the shooter is very likely to ascribe the poor shot which results to a number of causes except the right one—an error in trigger squeeze. If he is one of those who are not convinced that good shots can only result from pressing the trigger as described in 'Training Regulations 150-5,' he may continue for several shots with a slight trigger-squeeze error until he again unconsciously drops into the correct method. By this time his score for that range is ruined. Furthermore, the shooter has learned nothing from his poor score, because he has not ascribed it to the real cause.

"For the above-mentioned reasons the candidates for the team should be thoroughly instructed in paragraphs 26 and 60 and in the questions and answers on the lower half of page 37 of 'Training Regulations 150-5.' Not only should they be instructed in these paragraphs, but such means and methods as are necessary should be adopted to convince them of the correctness of the subject matter. One of the means of doing this is to require scores to be fired, when range practice begins, by having the coach press the trigger for the shooter, as described in paragraph 68, 'Training Regulations 150-5,' and comparing them with scores made when firing alone.

"I believe that one of the mistakes made in the past has been that too much has been taken for granted concerning the men who are sent to the tryout. It was assumed that, because they were selected from among the very best shots available, no further instruction was necessary, and, after some preliminary firing to get them into their usual shooting form, they began to shoot for place on the team. I am convinced that a number of men are sent to the tryouts who have great potentialities which could be developed by a careful course of instruction, and whose ability is lost to the

team due to the lack of this instruction. For this reason it should be planned this year to put the candidates through an extensive course of instruction—not mere firing, but instruction with all that the word implies—before the actual try-out for the team begins. During this course of instruction the coach-and-pupil method should be used (par. 3-b, T. R. 150-5), and the coaching methods described in paragraphs 64 to 75, inclusive, should be carefully adhered to.

"I want to emphasize the importance of the use of range-dummy cartridges mixed with loaded ones in rapid-fire training (par. 2, T. R. 150-5). I know that most old shots are prejudiced against them and just naturally hate to have to use them this way themselves. However, there is no doubt about their value as means of eliminating flinching in rapid fire. In fact, it cannot be done in any other way. My advice is to use them freely in rapid-fire training and, if possible, convince the candidates of their value and make them learn to like them.

"As a final word, I wish to state that I am convinced that most teams devote too much time to long-range slow fire in comparison with the time devoted to rapid fire and to slow fire at 200 yards in the standing position. A study of the Match bulletins issued in the past shows that the greatest variation between teams occurs in the rapid fire, and at 200 yards slow fire. Many points can easily be lost at these ranges, and once lost it is very difficult to regain them, due to the fact that there is seldom much difference in the scores of the different teams at the longer ranges. By all means the largest dividends are drawn from the training in rapid fire and in the 200-yard, off-hand training.

"In selecting the team, other things being anywhere near equal, I would give the preference to the men who are best at rapid-fire and off-hand shooting. They can be taught the long-range, slow-fire work, and the contrary is not always the case.

"Very sincerely,

"A. J. MACNAB,

"Colonel, Infantry."

Note.—The following are the paragraphs of the "Training Regulations" referred to above:

From Training Regulations 150-5, "Marksmanship, Rifle, Individual"

3.—b. *Coach and pupil method.*—Instruction is carried on throughout the entire period of training by the "coach and pupil method." Under this method the men undergoing instruction are grouped in pairs and take turns in watching and coaching each other. The man undergoing instruction is called the pupil. The man giving instruction is called the coach. When the men of a pair change places the pupil becomes the coach and the coach becomes the pupil. The squad leaders and commanders

of higher units are the instructors. The instructors supervise and prompt the men who are acting as coaches.

26. **IMPORTANCE.**—*a.* The most important item in rifle shooting is to squeeze the trigger in such a way as to fire the rifle without affecting the aim. The trigger must be squeezed so steadily that the firer can not know the instant the piece will be fired. Any man can hold the rifle steady enough to fire a good shot, and he can so hold it for a comparatively long time. Misses and poor shots are due to spoiling the aim just before the discharge takes place. This is done by jerking the trigger and flinching. If a man squeezes the trigger so steadily that he can not know when the discharge will take place, he does not spoil his aim and he will not flinch, because he does not know when to flinch.

b. No good shot attempts to set the rifle off at any instant at which his sights are aligned on the mark. That is what the poor shot does. The good shot holds his aim as accurately aligned on the mark as possible and maintains a steady pressure upon the trigger until the piece is fired. This method of squeezing the trigger must be carried out in all preparatory practice or the whole value of the practice is lost.

c. There is only one correct method of squeezing the trigger—a steady increase of pressure so that the firer does not know when the discharge will take place.

d. Excellent shots are men who through training have learned to increase the pressure only when the sights are in absolute alignment with the bullseye. When the sights get slightly out of alignment, they hold what they have with the finger and only go on with the increase of pressure when the sights again become properly aligned.

e. The difference between poor shots and good shots, good shots and very good shots, and very good shots and excellent shots, is only the difference in their ability to squeeze the trigger properly. The heart and soul, the beginning and end of good shooting, is the trigger squeeze. Any man with fair eyesight and strength enough to be on duty can align the sights on the target and hold them there for an appreciable length of time. When he has acquired sufficient will power and self-control to forget that there is to be an explosion and a shock, and squeezes the trigger with a steady increase of pressure until the rifle is fired, he has become a good shot, and not until then. This squeeze of the trigger applies to rapid fire as well as slow fire. The increase of pressure is faster in rapid fire, but the process is the same.

60. **IMPORTANCE OF CORRECT TRIGGER SQUEEZE.**—*a.* Any man who is physically fit to be a soldier and who has had a proper course of preparatory instruction can aim and hold well enough to make a score of well over 40. Scores that are under 40 are nearly always due to pressing the trigger incorrectly. The coach therefore will concentrate his attention on the trigger squeeze. He, of course, checks the position, the aiming, and the hold-

ing of the breath from time to time to see that the instruction on these points has not been forgotten, but by far the greatest amount of the coach's time will be devoted to requiring the pupil who is firing to press the trigger so steadily as not to know exactly when the discharge will take place.

b. It can always be proven to the pupil that he will be a good shot as soon as he learns to press the trigger properly, by having the coach press the trigger while the man under instruction holds and aims the rifle, as described in paragraph 68. Shots fired in this way from either the sandbag rest position or the prone position are almost always well placed. This is a very valuable method of coaching poor shots and is often a means of improving the scores of men who are classed as good shots.

PAGE 37.—

Q. How do you squeeze the trigger?—A. I squeeze the trigger with such a steady increase of pressure as not to know just when the rifle will go off.

Q. What do you know while you are squeezing the trigger?—A. I know that the sights are lined upon the bullseye.

Q. If the sights are slightly out of alignment, what do you do? A. I hold the pressure I have on the trigger, and only resume the increase of pressure when the sights become lined upon the bullseye again.

Q. If you do this, can your shot be a bad one?—A. No.

Q. Why?—A. Because I can not flinch, for I do not know when to flinch, and the sights will always be lined up with the bullseye when the rifle goes off, because I never increase the pressure on the trigger, except when they are properly lined up.

Q. Is it necessary to take a long time to press the trigger in this way?—A. No. The method of squeezing the trigger is slow at first, but rapidity is developed by practice.

Q. How do you squeeze the trigger in rapid fire?—A. I squeeze it the same way as in slow fire, with such a steady increase of pressure as not to know when the rifle will fire.

Q. In rapid fire how do you gain time so as not to be compelled to hurry in aiming and squeezing the trigger?—A. I gain time by taking the position rapidly, working the bolt rapidly, and by keeping my eye on the target while working the bolt.

64. **COACHING.**—*a.* During instruction practice each man on the firing line will have a coach to watch him and to help him correct errors. This statement does not mean that each man must have an old or experienced shot beside him. Any man of good intelligence who has been properly instructed in the preparatory work and who has been given instruction in coaching methods can be used with good results, and should be used when more experienced coaches are not available.

b. It is good practice to have expert coaches in charge of one or more targets, usually on a flank, to which particularly difficult pupils are sent for special coaching.

c. Great patience should be exercised by

the coach so as not to excite or confuse the firer. Everything should be done to encourage him. It is often a good plan to change coaches. It is necessary to do so when the coach shows signs of reaching the limit of his patience.

65. **POSITION OF COACH.**—The coach will take the same position as the man who is firing—prone, sitting, kneeling, or standing—so as to be able to watch his trigger finger and his eye.

66. **WATCHING THE EYE.**—Errors in trigger squeeze, which are the most serious and the hardest to correct, can be detected by watching the pupil's eye. If his eye can be seen to close as the rifle goes off, it is because he knew when it was going off and consequently was not squeezing the trigger properly. The explosion and the shock will cause a man to wink, but this wink can not be seen, due to the sudden movement of the head that takes place at the same time. If the firer can be seen to wink, it is because he winked first and jerked the trigger afterwards.

67. **USE OF DUMMY CARTRIDGES IN SLOW FIRE.**—If the pupil is seen to be flinching, or if he is doing poor or mediocre shooting, the coach first checks his aim by the aiming device. Having assured himself that the pupil is aiming correctly, the coach has him turn his head aside while he, the coach, puts in a cartridge and shoves the bolt home. Occasionally the coach loads in a dummy cartridge instead of a live one without letting the pupil know what he has done. Then the flinch, indicated by the shoulder being shoved forward at the same time that the trigger is pressed, will be evident even to the firer himself. The coach then proves to him, by squeezing the trigger a few times, as explained in the next paragraph, that his poor shooting is due to faulty trigger squeeze.

68. **COACH SQUEEZING THE TRIGGER.**—*a.* To squeeze the trigger for the firer the coach lies with his right elbow on the ground to steady his hand, places his thumb against the trigger and his first finger against the back of the trigger guard. In this way he can apply pressure to the trigger by a pinching action of his thumb and first finger.

b. The coach then watches the firer's back, and between 5 and 10 seconds after the firer begins to hold his breath he applies enough pressure to discharge the piece. Shots fired in this way are almost always accurately placed. After discharging the piece a few times, the coach lets the firer try a few shots alone to see if he can press the trigger the same way the coach pressed it, so as not to know just when the rifle will go off. Sometimes it is necessary to repeat this exercise, but the majority of beginners can be permanently cured of the tendency to flinch by a few minutes of this kind of coaching. Old shots who are flinchers require more time and patience.

69. **DUTIES OF THE COACH IN SLOW FIRE.**—*A.* The coach observes the pupil carefully and corrects all errors. He pays particular attention to the following points:

(1) That the sights are blackened and that they are set at the correct range.

(2) That the ammunition is free from dirt.
 (3) That the pupil has the correct position, gun sling properly adjusted, body at the proper angle, elbows correctly placed, and the cheek pressed firmly against the stock.

(4) That the magazine is loaded from a clip in the correct manner.

(5) That the slack is taken up promptly.

(6) Whether or not the pupil flinches (by watching his eye).

(7) That the pupil calls his shot each time he fires.

(8) That the pupil keeps his score book correctly.

(9) That the pupil is holding his breath properly (by watching his back occasionally).

(10) That the aiming is correct (by watching through the aiming device occasionally).

b. When necessary, the coach applies the coaching methods described in paragraphs 67 and 68.

70. FINAL PRECAUTIONS FOR SLOW FIRE.—The following precautions should be read over each time before going to the firing point. They will be read by the instructor to the assembled pupils at the beginning of instruction and record practice.

a. Be sure both the front and rear sights of your rifle are properly blackened.

b. Take your score book to the firing point and obtain your elevation and windage from it for the first shot.

c. Fire your first shot very carefully and then, if necessary, change the sights to bring the second shot into the bullseye.

d. Always aim at the bottom edge of the bullseye for all shots.

e. Never try to make a bullet hit closer to the bullseye by changing the aiming point. When you wish to change the hitting place of the bullet, do so by changing your rear sight.

f. Do not change your windage until you have looked at your score book to find out how much of a change you need; then look at your wind gauge to see how much windage you have before you start to make the change.

g. Plot all of your shots in the score book. Watch the score book to see where your group is going. Try to bring the center of the group to the center of the bullseye by making the necessary change in your sight setting.

h. Do not change your sights unnecessarily. If you have made two or three good shots and then make a bad one, do not change your sights on account of the bad one because it is almost certain that it is your own fault.

71. IMPORTANCE OF RAPID-FIRE TRAINING.—The true value of a soldier as a rifle shot depends upon his ability to deliver rapid fire, or more properly speaking, continuous fire, accurately. The tendency to jerk the trigger, and consequently to flinch, is very strong in rapid fire. This tendency must be corrected before it can become a fixed habit. Constant vigilance and attention to every detail by the coach is an absolute requisite.

72. USE OF DUMMY CARTRIDGES IN RAPID FIRE.—The tendency to flinch is eliminated by using clips in which half the cartridges are range dummy. The dummy and live cartridges are put into the clips by the coach in such a way that the pupil can not know which will

go off and which will not. Then if he is not squeezing the trigger with a steady pressure he will flinch, or shove the shoulder forward to meet the shock, when there is a dummy in the chamber and no shock occurs. The flinch is then apparent to the coach and to every one in the vicinity, including the man doing the flinching. The result is that he makes a determined effort to squeeze the trigger with a steady pressure for all shots, so as not to appear foolish both to the observers and to himself. During this kind of practice the coach must watch the firer closely to see that he does not look into the chamber in an attempt to see which cartridges are loaded and which are dummies. If he is allowed to look into the chamber while working the bolt the value of the practice is lost and a very bad shooting habit is acquired.

b. Range dummy cartridges, very similar in appearance to the service ammunition, are issued by the Ordnance Department for this purpose. They are issued to use on the rifle range with loaded cartridges, and this is the only use of them which is permitted. Practice dummy cartridges of such shape and color as to be readily distinguished from the service cartridge must be used in all other exercises requiring the use of dummy cartridges.

c. It is advisable to have each order, when it comes to the firing point, simulate a score of rapid fire, using dummy cartridges or having the cut-off turned down.

73. USE OF SPOTTERS IN RAPID FIRE.—Spotters will be used in rapid fire. When the target is run up to be marked, with a spotter in each shot hole, a picture of the group is obtained immediately. If enough issue spotters for this purpose are not available, each organization commander will have enough made for his organization. Spotters can be made out of cardboard and ordinary baling wire. A good tin spotter can also be made out of the tops of small cans.

4. DUTIES OF THE COACH IN RAPID FIRE.—a. The coach observes the pupil carefully and corrects all errors. He pays particular attention to the following points:

(1) That the sights are blackened and that they are set at the proper range.

(2) That the gun sling is properly adjusted.

(3) That the pupil assumes the correct position.

(4) That he takes up the slack promptly.

(5) Whether or not the pupil flinches (by watching his eye).

(6) That he works the bolt rapidly.

(7) That while working the bolt the pupil keeps his eye on the target, the rifle to his shoulder, and his elbows in place.

(8) That he reloads the magazine from a clip properly and quickly.

b. These operations follow each other, and the coach can watch each in turn. The coach will also at times watch the pupil's back to see if he holds his breath while firing each shot. In the case of a difficult pupil it is advisable to have two coaches watching him fire.

c. Any lack of a smooth and rapid bolt operation indicates that the preparatory training has not been sufficient, and additional preparatory rapid-fire practice will be given.

75. FINAL WORD.—Good shooting is a matter of instruction and not of mere practice. It requires no inborn talent. If the instruction is good, the shooting will be good. Practice without the proper instruction will produce only a small percentage of good shots, and those only after they have learned by long experience what they should have been taught in the beginning.

Editor's Note.—A copy of "Training Regulations, 150-5, Marksmanship, Rifle, Individual," may be obtained from the Superintendent of Public Documents, Washington, D. C., for ten cents. Purchasers should send New York draft, express, or postal money order. Coins and currency are sent at sender's risk. Stamps and foreign currency or coin not accepted. There is no postage charge.

* * *

INTERNATIONAL RIFLEMEN MEET

THE annual dinner of the Association of American International Riflemen was held in the Hotel Lafayette, Washington, D. C., on the evening of January 28. Among those present were: Brig. Gen. Bird W. Spencer, N. J., Brig. Gen. Winfield S. Price, N. J., Col. D. C. McDougal, U. S. M. C., Col. Geo. C. Shaw, D. C. M., Commander E. E. Wilson, U. S. N., Maj. L. W. T. Waller, U. S. M. C., Col. Fred M. Waterbury, Pres., N. R. A., Col. J. J. Dooley, U. S. M. C., Col. John Malcolm, N. J., Col. W. A. Tewes, N. J., Maj. K. K. V. Casey, Del., Mr. A. Felix duPont, Del., Mr. Wallace Cox, Del., Mr. F. S. MacGregor, Del.

Following the dinner, General Spencer, president of the Association, made a short address, in his usual happy vein, which was well received.

At a short meeting, convened by the president, a committee composed of General Spencer and Major Casey recommended admitting the members of international small-bore teams to membership in the Association, upon proper application and approval. The same being moved, seconded, and carried, the secretary was directed to notify those eligible.

Taking advantage of the privileges and courtesies of the columns of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, the secretary hereby cordially invites the application of all eligibles for membership in the Association of American International Riflemen.

In making application, give name, rank if any, address, and full data as to the international teams with which you were associated, and the competitions in which you participated. The annual fee of one dollar should accompany the application.

Article II of the Constitution reads:

"Object.—Its object shall be the perpetuation of friendships formed in the association of its members."

It is hoped that all members of former international teams will avail themselves of this opportunity for the privileges of membership. Send your application to Lieut. Col. W. A. Tewes, Sec.-Treas., Box 276, Montvale, N. J.

Present members are urged to present the names and addresses of those deemed eligible to membership.



(A Unit of the National Rifle Association devoted to teaching every boy and girl in America the safe and accurate handling of the rifle.)

Conducted by H. H. Goebel

National Individual Match

Matches Under Way May 1 Through May 15

THE announcement of the National Individual Championship Match should be of interest to instructors and adult leaders, as well as to every individual and club member of the Corps. Read this article carefully for the rules and details of this year's event differ from those of 1926. Don't allow yourself or any members of your club to be disqualified because of lack of knowledge of this year's rules.

Last year, as many of you will recall, 21 of our members submitted "possible" scores which necessitated a shoot-off. Pete Ottensen of Davenport, Iowa, got the edge on Sam Moore of Newtonville, Mass., winning out by a lone "A." This year the new two-to-ten count targets will be used, and it is hoped that many of these ties will be eliminated.

Who will be the new champion for 1927? Every affiliated member should be interested in this vital question. There are thousands of boys and girls who are eligible to try their skill. Will you try? You have had sufficient experience to know that the other fellow cannot win all the time. He may have an off day, and this may be your opportunity to win high honors. You will be surprised to find that it is quite possible to make much higher scores than you at first expected. Even if you don't win, you will be helping, because the more members that compete the more the title is going to mean. To help defray the expenses incurred in conducting the match, a nominal entry fee of 25 cents will be charged. Submit this fee with your entry. Show your sportsmanship by entering today.

The plan of conducting the match in three stages has been eliminated, as a complete set of targets for the four positions will go forward in one mailing. There will be ten shots for record in each position, two shots in each bullseye using the new five-bull targets. Local as well as State champions will be announced from targets submitted for the entire match. The local champion will be determined from prone scores, while the State champion will be determined from prone and sitting scores.

First, second, and third prizes will be awarded and the title of National Champion of the N.R.A. Junior Rifle Corps for 1927 in the final match. No former champion can com-

pete for any of the prizes, but may defend his title.

Rules for National Individual Match

Eligibility—Any Junior individual or club member of the N.R.A.J.R.C. who has not reached his nineteenth birthday.

Targets—Official N.R.A.J.R.C. two to ten count, five-bull targets will be furnished for the match. No other targets will be accepted. The information requested on the targets must be fully given.

Conditions—Four stages. A stage will consist of ten shots, fired at the convenience of the individual concerned. A stage must be completed the same day started. First stage, ten shots prone, two shots in each bull; second stage, ten shots sitting; third stage, ten shots kneeling; fourth stage, ten shots standing. No sighting shots will be taken.

Rifles—Any .22 caliber.

Ammunition—Any rim-fire .22 caliber.

Sights—Metallic.

Distance—Targets must be fifty feet from the firing line, outdoors or indoors.

Range—Any safe fifty-foot range.

Entrance Fee—25 cents.

Witness—If a club member, targets must be witnessed by the instructor or by some one appointed by him. If an individual member, by a responsible adult.

Entries Close—April 23.

Targets in Washington—Not later than May 23.

Prizes—Gold, silver, and bronze medals to the three high in the final match.

EXPERTS

"Hitting where they aim" is getting to be a regular thing among N.R.A. Junior Rifle Corps members. This month we have eight more names to add to our select list of Experts. These boys have had a taste of the four positions and are now competing for their Distinguished Rifleman Bar.

Edgar Seivert, Council Bluffs, Iowa

Giles Carey, South Bend, Ind.

Wayne Carver, Chicago, Ill.

Robert Pivetz, Manhattan, Kas.

Earle Harvey, Maltham, Mass.

Sigmond Misewicz, Chicago, Ill.

Roy Leverenz, Detroit, Mich.

William Walsmith, Davenport, Iowa

THE N.R.A.J.R.C. SERVES THE Y.M.C.A.

NOT so many years ago the sport of rifle shooting became a new activity in the Y.M.C.A. program. It has always been the policy of this organization to cooperate and assist all existing programs and institutions as a service organization rather than to operate as a distinct organization. As a result of this policy and the services rendered, we find rifle shooting today in many of the leading Y.M.C.A.'s in the country.

The Y.M.C.A. at Crestline and Portsmouth, Ohio, have conducted successful shooting programs for several seasons. The secretary in charge of the work at the Hyde Park Department Y.M.C.A., Chicago, Ill., holds a monthly banquet, at which time all medal awards are presented. Other associations use a similar plan, inviting the parents.

Many Y. M. C. A. camps have adopted the plan, including the State Y.M.C.A.'s of New York, Vermont, and Kansas. In the latter State there are six camps using the plan and affiliated with the National organization. In some Y.M.C.A.'s the clubs are organized in churches and high schools, but use the Y.M.C.A. as their headquarters.

The Industrial Department Y.M.C.A., New Haven, Connecticut, has conducted successful rifle shooting leagues for men and women in the local factories.

Recently a secretary wrote us: "The work has been a big factor in promoting our membership. We have new members joining all the while, and it has helped us to reach the high school boy and the R.O.T.C. boys in particular—boys whom we previously were unable to reach."

We are glad to know that our service is helping and that it is exactly as it should be. However, we will not be satisfied until we are serving the whole brotherhood.

DISTINGUISHED RIFLEMAN BAR

THE conditions for the Distinguished Rifleman bar have been changed several times since the acceptance of the qualification as an individual award. To eliminate all misunderstanding, we are reprinting the conditions, taken from the Junior Rifle Corps folder. If you haven't one of these, write us immediately so that you will be up to date on the complete program.

Distinguished Rifleman.—Any Expert may compete for the highest award and qualification of the N.R.A. Junior Rifle Corps, by shooting the following scores on the standard Junior Rifle Corps five-bull target, placing but two shots in each bullseye. The ten qualifying shots on each target must be made consecutively, although the targets need not be made consecutively. Ten targets must be made in each of the four positions and in the prone and sitting positions, each bullseye must score eighteen points or better, or a total of 90 points on each target out of a possible 100, and in the kneeling and standing positions each bullseye must score sixteen points or better, or 80 points out of a possible 100. When the course is completed in the four stages, the targets should be submitted to Na-

tional Headquarters, and a gold bar to be attached to the Expert Rifleman medal will then be issued gratis, with a diploma.

* * *

GROVER CLEVELAND WINS JANUARY JUNIOR LAURELS

THE second team, or Team No. 2, representing the Cleveland High School at St. Louis, Mo., is the winner of the J. R. C. Monthly Championship Match conducted during January. Their five high scores total 922, one point under the possible that had been decided for this group. The handsome silver trophy cup, with appropriate engraving, has been sent out to the Grover Cleveland outfit.

Leavenworth High School, one of Mr. Collety's close shooting teams at Waterbury, with a score of 871 x 875, copped second place, while Unit 2,043, located at Richmond, Va., is given third honors. Both Leavenworth and Richmond Unit, as the bulletin below shows, shot over their possible scores, and were accordingly penalized by having deducted from the score made, two points for each point over the possible.

It is gratifying to note that the first match of the new year broke all records in the number of teams making returns. Seventeen clubs completed the match, while one club, Mr. Farris' team at Portsmouth, was unable to complete the match. Most of the six teams listed below as not reported, advised Headquarters that, for various reasons, they could not fire the January Match.

The event to be conducted during February promises to be an even more successful match than the January competition. Entries continue to come in and will be accepted up to and including the 15th of the month in which the match is to be shot.

Instructors and rifle-team coaches are earnestly requested to refrain from plugging shot holes with bullets. The use of the .22 cartridge for this purpose inevitably enlarges the perforation made by shots on the target, making it difficult for the N.R.A. scorer to officially score the targets for this competition. Any shots showing signs of having been tampered with in such manner are scored for the LOW-EST VALUE.

Official bulletin for the January Match follows:

OFFICIAL BULLETIN—NRA-JRC MONTHLY MATCH

For January

February 8, 1927

	Possible	Score Made	True Score
1. Grover Cleveland High School No. 2, St. Louis, Mo.	923	922	922
2. Leavenworth High School, Waterbury, Conn.	875	879	871
3. Unit 2043, Richmond, Virginia	700	705	695
4. Lewis-Clark High School, Spokane, Washington ..	880	873	873
5. Wilby High School, Waterbury, Conn.	850	840	840
6. Grover Cleveland High School Team, No. 1, St. Louis, Mo.	940	928	928
7. Unit 2944, Greysbull, Wyoming	893	906	880
8. Crestine Y.M.C.A., Crestline, Ohio	863	849	849
9. Davenport High School, Davenport, Iowa	875	856	856
10. Crosby High School Team No. 2, Waterbury, Conn.	840	819	819
11. Crosby High School Team No. 1, Waterbury, Conn.	920	896	896

12. East Orange High School, East Orange, N. J.	840	867	813
13. Township High School, Evanston, Illinois	975	937	937
14. Unit 2654, Newtonville, Mass.	951	907	907
15. St. Paul's Rifle Club, New York, N. Y.	1,000	873	873
16. Unit 562, Fall River, Mass.	800	588	588
17. Unit 669, Bronx, New York	1,000	504	504

UNABLE TO FINISH

Portsmouth Y. M. C. A., Portsmouth, Ohio	900
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NOT REPORTED

Irving Park Rifle Club, Chicago, Ill.	940
Silver Bay High School, Silver Bay, N. Y.	745
Northwestern High School, Detroit, Mich.	965
Hyde Park "Y" Team No. 1, Chicago, Ill.	925
Hyde Park "Y" Team No. 2, Chicago, Ill.	800
Unit, 389, Oak Park, Ill.	825

CONTRIBUTORS TO INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Albert C. Adams, Royal Oak, Mich.	\$1.00
H. B. Cole, Moline, Ill.	5.00
A. C. Pearce, Miami, Fla.	1.00
Percy J. Warner, Buffalo, N. Y.	2.00
G. C. Headley, La Grande, Ore.	2.00
Ralph Betts, San Francisco, Calif.	1.00
Elmer Schuppner, Elgin, Ill. ....	.30
William H. Cox, Everett, Wash.	1.00
George L. Cutting, Worcester, Mass.	1.00
James A. Birkett, Wheeling, W. Va. ....	.92
James Bud, Manhattan, Nev. ....	.42
Frank Sittelson, Baltimore, Md.	2.00
William Meeker, Baltimore, Md.	2.00
Carl Seaburg, Chicago, Ill.	2.00
H. A. Timm, Muscatine, Iowa	2.00
William E. Reed, Trenton, N. J.	1.00
Robert H. Silman, Washington, D. C.	5.00
C. W. Chappella, Pittsburgh, Pa.	1.00
Juan Gallegos, Buenos Aires	10.00
G. J. Mundy, Toledo, Ohio	2.00
Fred Weida, Everett, Wash.	1.00
R. S. Pitcher, Buffalo, N. Y.	1.00
H. H. Chedester, Bentleyville, Pa.	1.00
Carl D. Boughton, Horton, Kas.	1.00
Louise E. Peterson, Santa Ana, Calif.	1.00
L. B. Wiley, Middletown, Conn.	2.00
Erving E. Martin, Osgo, Iowa	1.00
Earl Evans, Kamela, Oregon	1.00
W. Callard, Wallace, Idaho	1.00
John La Juenece, Camp Lewis, Wash.	1.00
W. H. Meredith, Joplin, Mo.	1.00
Glen B. Hayes, Detroit, Mich.	1.00
Orlando B. Potter, New York City	10.00
C. R. Hassinger, Mansfield, Ohio	1.00
R. J. Keenan, Clarendon, Pa.	2.00
Glen B. Hayes, Detroit, Mich.	1.00
Harvey Jones, Ontario, Calif.	3.00
Charles Olsen, San Luis, Calif.	1.00
Gilbert Gogan, Faust, N. Y.	1.00
Joseph A. Matzer, Chicago, Ill.	5.00
Charles Karwels, Port Bliss, Texas	5.00
James L. Driscoll, Oakland, Calif.	2.00
L. Starkey Shaffer, Independence, W. Va.	1.00
A. V. Thomas, Michigan City, Ind.	1.00
C. K. Walker, Denver, Colo.	1.00
S. H. Arenas, Sacred Heart, Minn.	2.00
Mr. Clay Winterstein, Colbran, Colo.	1.00
Allen P. Westcott, Kenilworth, N. J.	1.00
R. W. Kimmel, Ypsilante, Mich.	1.00
G. H. Collins, San Antonio, Texas	1.00
C. R. Swetnam, Prescott, Ariz.	3.00
Olin B. Miller, Reward, Calif.	1.00
E. F. Lindgren, San Jose, Calif.	1.00
O. S. Mundy, Toledo, Ohio	2.00
Fred Johansen, Joliet, Ill.	2.00
Chester Wing, Brookline, Mass.	1.00
Mr. Alvin Swanson, Pawtucket, R. I.	1.00
William Korman, Kansas City, Mo.	2.00
J. W. Atken, Overly, N. D.	1.00
L. W. Althof, Pocatello, Idaho	2.00
Vernon E. Perry, Cœur d'Alene, Idaho	1.00
W. G. Cohen, San Francisco, Calif.	3.00
Howard L. Shaw, East Stroudsburg, Pa.	1.00
Mr. W. N. Gulick, Tustin, Calif.	1.00
Bert Budgen, Kibbie, Mich.	1.00
Fred C. Tresemmer, Osgo, Iowa	2.00
C. B. Barton, Berlin, N. H.	1.00
J. H. Quisenberry, Atlanta, Ill.	1.00
C. B. Barton, Berlin, N. H.	2.50
James C. Downs, Baltimore, Md.	5.46
O. G. Hovatter, St. George, W. Va.	1.00
Harry L. McFarland, Peacacho, Ariz.	1.00
Fren Quarts, Canton, Ohio	1.00
A. B. Daniels, Milton, La.	1.00
G. F. Fries, Chambersburg, Pa.	2.50
Fred C. Tresemmer, Osgo, Iowa	1.00
Alfred Hilton, Huntington Park, Calif.	1.00
A. F. Mantey, Crescent City, Calif.	1.00
Anderson Longhead, Los Angeles, Calif.	1.00
George Hyder, Port Washington, Wis.	1.00
J. Stokes Gaskay, Cooperstown, N. Y.	2.00
J. M. Lesovich, Josephine, Pa.	1.00
R. T. McMahon, Cincinnati, Ohio	2.00
T. O. Jackson, Keyser, W. Va.	5.00
R. C. Gustafson, Franklinville, N. Y.	1.00
Lester N. Blosser, Pasadena, Calif.	2.00
Alvin Linden, Bryant, Wis.	2.00
F. C. Heim, Chandler, Ind.	1.00
Clarence D. Hilger, Cashmere, Wash.	1.00
C. H. Jurgens, Oakland, Calif.	1.00
William H. Proctor, Key West, Fla.	2.00
E. J. Hofeiny, Austin, Texas	2.00
Francis G. Beach, Crystal Falls, Mich.	1.00
John A. Sosnowski, Freeland, Pa.	2.00
Arthur B. Whitehill, Wilkinsburg, Pa.	2.00
A. G. Aldrich, Toledo, Ohio	1.00
William Riegel, Reading, Pa.	1.00
William F. Kurtz, Erie, Pa.	1.00
Rudolf Hama, Clarkson, Nebr.	1.00
W. L. Diggett, Daytona Beach, Fla.	1.00
Aaron E. Sassaman, Pine St., Tamaqua, Pa.	2.00
Leonard Field, New Brighton, Pa.	1.00
Myles Lasham, New Brighton, Pa.	1.00
Wallace H. Shores, Whitefield, N. H.	1.00
Bert Bukden, Kibbie, Mich.	1.00
Charles Burr, Eureka, Calif.	1.00
Charles Stovekin, Pembine, Wis.	2.00
R. G. Owen, Sauquoit, N. Y.	1.00
J. W. Clark, Jr., De Witt, Iowa	1.00
John Strook, Rock Springs, Wyo.	2.00
J. E. England, Boise, Idaho	1.00
W. A. Lee, U. S. N.	3.00
Ervin Jones, Calwa, Calif.	2.00
W. C. Tarr, Carmel, Calif.	1.00
Charles E. Jones, Calwa City, Calif.	2.00
Charles C. Berkeley, Newport News, Va.	5.00
Floyd Davis, Claremont, Mass.	2.00
Charles T. Davis, San Francisco, Calif.	2.00
E. C. Harrington, Worcester, Mass.	5.00
J. Frederic James, Port Washington, N. Y.	1.00
Homer Harrold, Columbiana, Ohio	1.00
C. J. Manhart, Chicago, Ill.	1.00
Dan M. Stump, Chicago, Ill.	5.00
R. B. Taumbillott, Morgantown, W. Va.	1.00
Albert C. Adams, Royal Oak, Mich.	1.00
J. W. Dlouhy, Mission City, B. C., Canada	1.00
Fred A. Gray, Whittier, Calif.	5.00
George L. Lally, Troy, N. Y.	1.00
H. W. Arndt, Frazee, Minn.	1.00
O. D. Stevens, Rome, Iowa	1.00
T. H. Kruttschnitt, San Francisco, Calif.	1.00
D. F. Culbert, Lowell, Ariz.	1.00
L. B. Reo, Plymouth, Mass.	1.00
Alfred K. Friedrich, Ames, Iowa	1.00
A. G. Gregg, Clarence, N. Y.	5.00
A. C. White, Los Angeles, Calif.	1.00
C. T. Sison, San Francisco, Calif.	1.00
H. Ransom Wells, Paducah, Ky.	2.00
David Riebs, Boise, Idaho	1.00
Charles F. Johnston, Greensburg, Pa.	1.00
Harry C. Coventry, Rochester, Minn.	1.00
A. L. Johnson, Searchlight, Nev.	1.00
G. C. Annab, Anchorage, Alaska	1.00
Elbridge M. Kidder, Ayer, Mass.	1.00
Edward Gearhard, Gooding, Idaho	1.00
D. C. Gare, Portland, Ore.	1.00
J. B. Gares, Philadelphia, Pa.	1.00
Harry M. Smith, Oregon, City, Ore.	1.00
J. F. Woolshlager, Castorland, N. Y.	1.00
George W. Ridge, Champaign, Ill.	1.00
A. S. Pfeiffer, Bomanville, N. Y.	1.00
George W. Card, Manila, Philippine Islands	5.00
Chester A. Dorety, Toledo, Ohio	2.00
Thomas C. Thomson, Ketchikan, Alaska	1.00
Frank Uberwimer, Loring, Alaska	1.48
J. D. Cartwright, Terrell, Texas	2.00
Elmer E. Davis, Toledo, Ohio	2.00
A. R. Bice, Chicago, Ill.	1.00
Paul Meridith, Leitchfield, Ky.	1.00
Charles L. Hopp, Boonville, Ind.	1.00
Harculis Powder Company	100.00
E. S. du Pont de Nemours & Company	100.00
Celulose Products, Inc.	25.00
Edward R. Hull, Milton Junction, Wis.	1.00
A. H. Andrews, Miami, Fla.	2.00
J. H. Fly, Nashville, Tenn.	1.00
Carl Wurm, Jr., New York City	5.00
Charles B. Ritter, Reading, Pa.	1.00
George W. Wingate, New York City	2.00
Henry Dietrich, Napoleon, Ohio	1.00
J. Fred Thomas, Sharon, Pa.	1.00
Esra S. Carpenter, Owls Head, N. Y.	2.00
A. L. Beale, Keyser, W. Va.	1.00
William A. Mackey, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.	1.00
William Eklind, Anchorage, Alaska	2.00
Basil Middleton, Culver, Ind.	3.00
F. O. Dufour, Lafayette College, Easton, Pa.	2.00
Bud Dalrymple, Nowlin, S. D.	3.00
Elwin Moran, Norton, W. V.	2.00
Carlyle Danty, Brooklyn, N. Y.	2.00
Clare Lee Seattie, Wash.	1.00
J. I. Lee, Seattle, Wash.	1.00
Ella Callard, Wallace, Idaho	1.00
M. M. Burt, Bluff, Utah	1.00
Mac A. McLaren, White Deer, Texas	3.00
L. Lipiejko, Fort Missoula, Mont.	1.00
I. C. Zenor, North Platte, Nebr.	1.00
Charles C. Ruppert, Oakmont, Pa.	1.00
John C. Logan, Enid, Okla.	1.00
Robert Echols, Matador, Texas	3.00
James A. Baker, Jr., Darien, Conn.	3.00
Harry Davidson, New Franklin, Mo.	1.00
D. R. Bates, Parsons, Kas.	1.00
C. Bestgen, Sedalia, Mo.	2.00
Joseph Opavsky, Tarrytown, N. Y.	2.00
Charles H. Chapman, Pleasantville, N. Y.	5.00
J. Alex Stimson, Cascade, Idaho	1.00



Conducted by C. B. Lister

Fort Pitt Rifle Club Holds Annual Meeting

THE Fort Pitt Rifle Club held its twenty-first annual meeting and dinner at Seventh Avenue Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 8, 1927, with one of the largest gatherings of its members and friends ever witnessed.

The banquet was served at 6.30 p. m., which lasted until about 8.00 p. m., after which the various reports of the club were read and results of the season's matches and the distributing of trophies and cash prizes, when the attention was given over to the various speakers and lecturers who had been secured for the occasion.

The members and friends were agreeably surprised by the presence of John B. Truman, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania State Game Commission, who gave a very interesting talk on the game situation of the State and the work being done to propagate game and make Pennsylvania the hunter's paradise. It was interesting to note that of the illegal acts committed in hunting, there were less than 4/10 of 1 per cent charged to the American citizen, and this not wilfully, as in this State a buck must have a visible "Y" on an antler. Many spike deer having a very long antler, it was only natural that the hunter would take a shot at him. Again, a few unwilful shots were made on account of a doe probably running in the same line and receiving the double.

He warned the big-game hunters again about the possibility of some of the lawmakers in the present legislature trying to merge the hunters' license money now in the hands of the Commission, with the general funds of the State (Pennsylvania resident hunters pay \$1.25 license fee). The money now in the game fund is nearly \$800,000, and should be used for increasing the game and buying game preserves and stocking same, he said.

The Commissioner stated that Pennsylvania is having good success with restocking the game preserves with the imported Hungarian partridge, one of the best and hardiest game birds in existence, and well able to endure the Pennsylvania climate.

The speaker very forcibly impressed on the gun lovers the fact that there are many so-called "pacifists" in the State who will be on hand at the present session of our legislature to try to have a law passed making it illegal for any citizen to own a firearm of any kind.

Col. Harry C. Fry, Jr., of the Aviation Corps of the United States, gave a very interesting talk, explaining in general the uses of the airplane.

Lieutenant Harter of the Pitt Rifle Team

of the University of Pittsburgh, gave a short discussion on the work they are doing with the small-bore rifle.

Prof. R. H. Santens, chief taxidermist of the Carnegie Museum, gave a lecture on the various species of game in the United States and of other lands, illustrating the various types with slides.

The officers for 1927 were elected, as follows: President, Capt. E. B. Riddle; vice-president, Dr. D. A. Atkinson; executive officer, A. B. Whitehill; secretary-treasurer, C. W. Freehling; directors, T. C. Beal, M. R. Coleman, George H. Keil, Fulton C. Noss, Patrick C. Bradley, P. H. Dillman, H. G. Mauk, Edward H. Price.

* * *

JUST ONE BUM SHOT TO ANOTHER

BY E. NARAMORE

BY reason of being too optimistic about the shooting properties of a certain gun, a gentleman of my acquaintance has just delivered a package of cigarettes to me. This guy had the nerve to bet that he could trim me at fifty yards shooting a two-inch Colt Police Positive Special against my old .45 Auto. Imagine it! I offered to take the cigarettes without shooting and let him save his ammunition, but he was just bound to gamble.

Competition is a wonderful thing if you win and it isn't so bad when you lose, provided you don't overestimate your ability before you shoot. If you have a tendency to count the score before you shoot you will come out of matches with a disappointed feeling. On the other hand, if you will admit to yourself that there is a fair possibility that you will not be up at the head of the list, but refuse to admit that you are licked until the scores are added up you are likely to do some fair match shooting if you just keep at it. By match shooting I mean any kind of shooting that calls for your best efforts. This may be a personal affair, club match, N. R. A. or U. S. R. A. matches or the National Matches, the same principle applies.

I am of the opinion that there are a lot of guys in these United States who are afraid to enter matches; afraid they won't win or make a respectable showing. This is an unfortunate state of mind to get in to and is the equivalent of admitting defeat. You know the old saying, "It is better to have shot and lost than to never have shot at all," and it is a true word, take it from me. Why, I have lost so many matches I can't attempt

to remember them all, but I will shoot with anybody any time, and I'm not licked till the last shot is fired. You know, these fellows that you see up at the top of the list frequently, don't shoot like that all the time. They get bum scores even as you and I.

Just take a copy of a National Match program and look up the winners of individual events. Note how infrequently the same man has won more than once, and it isn't because they didn't shoot again. Take the National Individual Pistol Match. Sgt. Thomas has won it several times, which is unusual, but if you look at the scores shot a year ago in the same match, in the October 1 issue of the RIFLEMAN, you won't even find Sgt. Thomas on the list, and he shot. Things just didn't break right for him. It is just because of such things that tyros win matches in competition with veterans and it is just such things that give guys like you and I a whack at the medals. But you have to shoot.

If you have never shot in an open competition and you care anything about target shooting, now is the time to start. I can guarantee that when you finish your first match you will say I am a liar. The muzzle of your gun will oscillate, trigger pull will raise several pounds and you will have that uneasy feeling of a bachelor holding a baby that isn't house broken. But that is good for you—much better than winning the match, for if you won you would get a swelled head and never win another because you would get the habit of counting the score before you shoot. This buck fever, or whatever you want to call it, has one remedy and that is more competition. In a short time a match target gets to look like any other of the same size and the gun behaves in a reasonable manner when pointed at it.

You will shoot just about so good, whether in a match or in practice. Some scores will be up and some not so up, and whether you do well or not in a match just depends on how your shooting breaks; that is, whether you get one of your good scores or not, and the only way to find out is to shoot.

Personally, I am inclined to shoot better in competition than in practice, but this is not an infallible rule. I do not depend on the element of competition for a good score, but just shoot and, like everybody else, take what I get. Now, just why I get more in competition than in practice I do not know, but it is probably because I get more careful without being conscious of it. However, we are not all built alike, and as I have been shooting in N. R. A. and U. S. R. A. competitions for about fourteen years, it is not strange that I am getting a little hard-boiled on match shooting. Just two things get my goat. Having some one look through my spotting scope and wait for the next shot to go down and to have a crowd gather around and watch me shoot, even if they don't make any comments. The first affliction doesn't spoil more than one shot, as I get impolite quickly and the second is a rare occurrence as I never shoot a score that would attract any attention from shooters.

Oh, yes! There is one other thing and that is to have some small child comment on my shooting or to watch my target through a glass and call the shots. These are usually called wrong, which doesn't help things any. That is also a rare affliction. These things occur so rarely that I never have become used to them. Of course, the reason they bother is because they take my mind off my shooting and match shooting requires a fair degree of concentration.

For the shooter just starting to do competitive shooting I would suggest the N. R. A. or U. S. R. A. matches, as these can be shot on his own range in familiar surroundings and under conditions least likely to make him nervous, but by all means shoot in shoulder-to-shoulder competitions whenever you can, as that is real shooting. Never mind just what the match or the conditions are, as they will be as fair for one as another. Just make sure that you shoot. As a parting word of advice I would say that if you incline towards hand-guns and have one of these two-inch Colt Police Positive Specials, don't ever bet a guy with a .45 Auto that you can trim him if he has part of the sight of one eye. That isn't competition; it's philanthropy.

* * *

FORT MISSOULA TO STAGE FIRST 1927 REGIONAL MATCH

THE newly organized Northwestern Rifle Association has been authorized by National Rifle Association to stage a regional competition, the Fourth Annual Northwestern Rifle Tournament, at Fort Missoula, Montana, May 3 to 8, inclusive. The match is open to all comers. Contestants will be quartered in a newly floored and electrically lighted tent camp. Hot and cold showers will be provided. Mess will be provided at the rate of 25 cents per meal, no charge for quarters or bedding. The program includes a three-day School of Instruction, May 3 to 5, inclusive.

The tentative program is as follows:

MAY 3, 4, 5.

School of Instruction and Targeting.

MAY 6.

7.00 a. m.—Northwest Wimbledon:

2 ss, 20 shots for record, 1,000 yards.

Rifle, any; sights, any; position, prone, sandbag rest.

Entrance fee, \$1.00 six places.

10.00 a. m.—Anthony Wayne Free Rifle

Match:

20 shots for record, 200 yards.

Rifle, any; sights, any; position, standing.

Entrance fee, \$1.00; six places.

1.00 p. m.—Powder River Pistol Match:

10 shots, 25 yards, slow fire, "L" target.

10 shots, 50 yards, slow fire, "L" target.

10 shots, 25 yards, rapid fire, "L" target.

Any pistol or revolver; open sights; barrel and sight radius not over ten inches.

Entrance fee, \$1.00; six places.

3.30 p. m.—Trap Event (First two stages).

MAY 7.

7.00 a. m.—Founders' Match.

10 shots for record; 300 yards; prone.

10 shots for record; 300 yards; kneeling.

SCHEDULE OUTDOOR MATCHES, SPRING AND SUMMER, 1927

.22 RIFLE SECTION (All Slow Fire)			
Match	Sights	Course	When Fired
Tyro 50-Yard Match	Iron	20 shots	May 1 to May 28
Tyro 100-Yard Match	Iron	20 shots	May 1 to May 28
Small-Bore Championship Match	Any	Aggregate of 50	May 1 to May 28
50-Yard Championship Match	Any	100-Yard Champs.	May 1 to May 28
100-Yard Championship Match	Any	40 shots	May 1 to May 28
Free-Rifle Match	Iron	20 shots standing	May 15 to June 11
		20 shots kneeling	
		20 shots prone	
Two-Man Team Match	(a) Iron (b) Scope	20 shots, 50 Yards	May 29 to June 25
		20 shots, 100 Yards	
American Dewar Match	Iron	20 shots, 50 Yards	June 5 to July 2
		20 shots, 100 yards	
Long-Range Match	Any	20 shots, 200 Yards	June 5 to July 2
Tyro Team Match	(a) Iron	20 shots, 50 Yards	June 12 to July 2
Team Championship Match	(b) Scope	20 shots 50 Yards	
		20 shots, 100 Yards	June 12 to July 9
Long-Range Team Match	Any	20 shots, 200 Yards	June 19 to July 16

All team matches provide for teams of ten or less, five high scores to count for record.

HIGH-POWER RIFLE SECTION

Match	Sights	Course	When Fired
200-Yard Off-Hand Match	Any	20 shots, standing	May 1 to May 28
		200 Yards	
600-Yard Match	Any	20 shots, prone	May 15 to June 11
1,000-Yard Match	Any	20 shots, prone	May 29 to June 25
Schuetzen Match	Any	20 shots, standing	May 29 to June 25
		200 Yards	
Free-Rifle Match	Iron	20 shots, standing, 300 yards	June 26 to July 23
		20 shots, kneeling, 300 yards	June 26 to July 23
		20 shots, prone, 300 yards	June 26 to July 23
Two-Man Team Match	Iron	20 shots, 200 yards, standing	
		20 shots, 200 yards, Rapid	
		20 shots, 200 yards, prone	June 12 to July 9
Inter-Club Championship	Iron	20 shots, 200 yards, standing	June 19 to July 16
		20 shots, 1,000 yards, prone	

PISTOL AND REVOLVER SECTION

Match	Sights	Course	When Fired
Tyro Slow-Fire Match		40 shots, 25 yards	May 1 to May 28
Slow-Fire Match		40 shots, 50 yards	May 8 to June 4
Timed-Fire Match		40 shots, 25 yards	May 15 to June 11
Rapid-Fire Match		40 shots, 25 yards	May 22 to June 18
Pistol-Championship Match		Aggregate above 3	May 8 to June 18
Free-Pistol Match		40 shots, 50 yards	May 29 to June 25
Individual Police Championship Match		10 shots, slow fire	
		10 shots, timed fire	
		10 shots, rapid fire	June 5 to July 2
Police Pistol Team Match		(Same as Ind. Police)	June 12 to July 9
Inter-Club Team Match		(Same as Ind. Police)	June 5 to July 7

Team Matches provide for teams of not more than ten, five high scores to count.

10 shots for record; 300 yards; standing.

Target, 300-meter, International.

Rifle, any; sights, any.

Entrance Fee, \$1.00; six places.

10.00 a. m.—Infantry Match.

2 ss., 10 shots for record, 500 yards, prone, sandbag rest.

10 shots, 300 yards, rapid fire, prone from standing.

Rifle, Service Rifle, as issued.

Six-man team; entry fee, \$6; three places.

1.00 p. m.—Northwest Olympic Pistol Match.

2 ss, 20 shots for record, 50 yards, 50-meter International target.

Pistol, any; sights, any.

Entry Fee, \$1.00; six places.

3.00 p. m.—Trap Event (Third stage).

MAY 8

7.00 a. m.—Zachary Taylor Match.

2 ss., 20 shots for record, 1,000 yards, sandbag rest.

Rifle, Service Rifle, as issued.

Six-man team; entry fee, \$6; three places.

1.00 p. m.—Idaho Match.

10 shots for record, 200 yards, offhand, no sling.

10 shots for record, 600 yards, 2 ss., no sandbag rest.

Rifle, Service Rifle, any metallic sight.

Six-man team; entry fee, \$6; three places.

3.30 p. m.—Trap Event (Final stage).

Rosebud Small-Bore Match.

5 ss., 20 shots for record, 100 yards, prone, rest.

Rifle, any cal. .22; sights, any.

Re-entry Match, open May 6, 7, and until 3.00 p. m., May 8.

Targets, 25 cents each; six places.

It has been suggested to the management that the small-bore program be broadened. Official programs, as finally worked out, may be obtained by writing Lieut. Norman C. Caum, Sec.-Treas., Northwestern Rifle Association, Fort Missoula, Mont.

* * *

VIGILANTES INCREASE CLUB MEMBERSHIP

A CIVILIAN rifle club in Iowa wrote in recently to the effect that it had added 43 members from members of the Vigilantes of the Iowa Bankers' Association, who are located in their county. This increase in membership will benefit the club, and the Vigilantes will be benefited by having the opportunity to practice with their weapons. Rifle clubs located in any of the following States—Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Oklahoma, Minnesota, or Wisconsin—may be able to increase their membership by inviting members of the Vigilantes in their counties to join. All of the aforementioned States have new Vigilantes under their State Bankers' Association in various stages of organization. They are doing a good work in helping along the shooting game, and most any club should be glad to enroll any of the Vigilantes among its membership.

"NOW PRACTICALLY EVERY MEMBER IS A SHOOTER"

THE following extracts from the report of the Secretary of the Gastonia, N. C., Rifle Club are published because they indicate a healthy improvement which has taken place in this particular club, and show how the improvement was affected. There may be some ideas in this report which can be copied advantageously by other clubs:

The year 1926 has been, in many respects, the best year the Gastonia Rifle Club has experienced.

The membership remains small, but there has been a change in this respect: while formerly a number of the members were very little interested, now practically every member is a shooter.

The real reason of the improvement is this: a match is shot at least once every week. Sometimes it is a serious match, sometimes a "crazy" match, but every Wednesday night during the gallery season—and that means practically the whole year—you will find most of the members present at the indoor range.

It may be of interest to tell a little of these matches. We started off last year with a "Gallery Championship Match." This match was patterned after a golf match, with the exception that a man had to be beaten twice before he was eliminated. One stage of it was shot per week, and it took six weeks to determine the winner.

It was surprising to note the interest the whole club took in this match. Not only the two men who were actually shooting, but every one present—which included all entered in this tournament—followed every shot. The scores were below the average, due to the unaccustomed strain, but the boys enjoyed it just the same, and on the whole it was a great success.

After that we had "tin cup" matches. The rules of this match were as follows: 20 shots, position prone, sitting, standing, or kneeling. The first match was shot in all positions, the winner holding his cup one week. Any member could challenge him, position the choice of the challenger. As most of the shooters have a weakness in some position, the result is that the cup remains very little longer than one week in any one's possession. This has really been the best match of all. The cup has been in circulation for a year and is engraved with the names of all the winners, which means nearly every member, and it is being "fought for" just as hard now as in the beginning. One of the rules provides that the onlookers can joke the participants as much as they like, and a "goose egg" is a thing to be dreaded by the shooters, and mightily enjoyed by the rest. This has the effect of hardening the shooters, who, as you know, are mighty touchy bunch, and are liable to get "up in the air" in match shooting.

During the summer we have the outdoor match, patterned after the Dewar, with the exception that telescope sights are allowed and that we use a handicap system, so every one has an equal chance of winning.

Nice cups, donated by local bankers, are

first prizes in these matches, with other prizes for second and third places.

In between, we stage matches in different positions, and now and then a "foolish" match to entertain the newcomers.

All this, as well as regular news items in the local paper, has created an interest in shooting that has brought out new men, and while some of the older members have lost interest and dropped out, their places have been taken by new men who like to shoot, and we are in a fair way of having a real team.

* * *

OHIO MOVES UP

By E. M. FARRIS

CONVENING in the commodious quarters of the Columbus Business Men's Rifle Club, on December 5, the Ohio Rifle League laid plans that mean nothing if not progress. Twenty men, representing the State's foremost proponents of rifery, showed their faith in the League by asking for a program similar to that of 1926, only more of it. They put that program in good hands by electing Dr. M. E. McManes, Piqua, to the presidency. The Doctor demonstrated his ability and fitness by giving Ohio the "world's biggest" indoor shoot last February, following that up with six days of large and small outdoor shooting in early September, where the civilians and military met on equal—and certainly cordial—grounds. "Doc. knows his groceries," someone remarked, which indicated the confidence the shooters have in their chief. Walter Good, Ashland, and D. C. Maier, Dayton, were chosen vice-presidents. The other officers were re-elected: Q. D. Foster, Executive Officer; L. B. Bender, Treasurer; E. M. Farris, Secretary.

With the growth of the League, which reported twenty-five paid-up member clubs, a resolution to revise and enlarge the constitution and by-laws found favor and was passed on to the new president for his action by the next meeting. It has been felt that too much democracy and informality in the growing organization promotes anything but orderliness, so "machinery" is to be provided for better handling of affairs in the future.

Matches of an interstate and international nature were recommended for 1927, with State contests for ladies and juniors. All of these were on the 1926 program, except the junior, and were popular with the fans.

Two sections of Ohio are conducting a schedule of "District Shoots," all with a view to being better prepared for the full program of State Matches in February. The same program is to be promoted in two or three more sections, their value having made a strong appeal to the teams not participating. This shooting is in the four positions and always shoulder to shoulder. Five shots in each position has frequently brought out scores of 197, 198, and, once in a while, 199.

Both the membership and RIFLEMAN plan and the Junior program of the N.R.A. came up for discussion; only the most favorable comment was voiced. Why any rifle, pistol, or scatter-gun exponent could be without THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN brought forth the pos-

sibility of that party's ignorance or questionable sanity (Ohio shooters please note).

Jess Moser, Dayton, was asked to investigate the advisability of incorporating the League. "Growth with Dignity" might well have been the caption for this dissertation in the face of the forward-looking matters that came up at this meeting.

Wonder of wonders! only the strenuous protests of the secretary prevented the group voting him an honest-to-gosh salary! He who doubted Ohio's leadership in rifle affairs may now retire while the world tries to regain its equilibrium!

The Ohio Rifle League, aside from photomounting matches, has endeavored to give all clubs—member and non-member alike—a bulletin and news service that would promote more and better shooting, would assist in advertising some particular club's match or matches, and that would bring to the riflemen of the Buckeye State any pertinent matters that needed their attention or action. All this will be continued and improved upon with the new administration so far as is possible, while the matter of permanent State trophies for team and individual matches, securing a larger membership, and the organization of clubs will be prominent on the program.

* * *

SHOOTERS JOIN SPORT CLUB

Calif., voted, at the annual meeting held January 19, to affiliate with the Associated Sportsmen's Clubs of California. The officers of both organizations are very much gratified at this action of the members.

The Rifle Club is the oldest sportsmen's organization in San Joaquin County. It was organized in 1915, and has functioned continuously ever since.

The Associated Sportsmen's Clubs is the State-wide organization which was formed two years ago. It is composed of local "member clubs" and of individual members. The aim of its directors is to unite all hunting, fishing, and shooting clubs in the movement for the preservation of fish, game, and forests.

Henry Ronkendorf was re-elected president of the Stockton riflemen. Other officers for 1927 are: E. J. Patterson, vice-president; Walter Hubbard, secretary Creed Hansford, treasurer; and Gilbert Barthold, range officer. The new board of directors consists of these officers, and also of William Collier, Harry Wolfinger, Archie Toal, George Ohm, Waldo Haack and Judge C. P. Rendon.

Remember—

Profits from book sales by THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN Book Department go to boost shooting. ANY book in print can be obtained for you. Order your books from your own organization.

Hi-Power Rifles on Game

(Continued from page 14)

then suddenly raised up on its hind legs and fell over backwards, dead.

The .35 Remington automatic 200-grain S.P. bullet killed the following: A four-point black-tail buck, shot while in bed, distance about 50 yards. Bullet broke his back. The deer was in the act of getting up when hit.

A four-point white-tail buck, also shot in his bed of snow about a foot deep with only head and neck visible, at a distance of about 100 yards. The bullet entered the neck, killing instantly. The deer never moved a muscle after being hit. I never saw a deer killed more suddenly than this one and the large, white-tail shot just before.

A large, five-point, black-tail buck, distance about 200 yards. The deer was running away from me. The bullet entered the left hip, breaking the deer down. I then killed it with a shot through the neck at close range. Before I shot this deer my hunting companion shot him just back of the shoulders with a .30-40 Winchester, 220-grain S.P. bullet, which mushroomed perfectly, passing through to the opposite side, where we found it next to the skin. The deer showed no signs of being hit with this bullet, and most likely would have been lost had I not broken him down, as there was no tracking snow at the time.

A white-tail fawn running away from me at a distance of about 75 yards. The bullet entered from the rear and came out top of back.

I also killed a yearling black bear with this .35 Remington, bear running from me, distance about 100 yards. The bullet entered at the side of the left hip, passing through the body lengthwise, and lodged next to the skin in the upper side of the neck, killing instantly.

A .25 Remington pump, 117-grain S.P. bullet was used on the following:

A white-tail fawn, distance 250 yards. The bullet broke its back and the deer went down to stay.

A two-point black-tail buck, who offered a standing shot at about 50 yards. The bullet crushed the entire top of its head, knocking one horn off. The deer acted like a chicken when its head is cut off, kicking himself down the mountain about 100 yards.

A two-point black-tail buck, at a distance of about 50 yards. It was a standing shot, and the bullet broke its back. The deer went down to stay.

A black-tail fawn, at a distance of about 50 yards. The deer was standing facing me. The bullet entered its chest and touched the heart. The deer jumped straight up, and then ran about 75 yards, where I found it dead.

A .250-300 Savage, 87-grain S.P. bullet accounted for the following:

A white-tail fawn standing, distance about 300 yards. The bullet hit its backbone, grinding it into a pulp, and giving the same results as the other back shots.

A two-point black-tail buck, distance about 75 yards, standing. The bullet grazed the eyelid, entering at and passing out at the base of

(Continued on page 37)

The Truth About Wild Bill

(Continued from page 13)

"As for revolver shooting, I couldn't beat Cody, yet neither of us could hit a barn, and if I wanted to hit the house I'd have to go inside and shut the door. The time I beat Bill Burke, John Hancock, and Bill Burroughs, and half a dozen more up at North Platte, my string for ten shots was 12¼ inches at 50 yards off-hand. When Cody won from 'Yank' Adams at Portland, Me., his string was only 21¼, same conditions. Both matches were with rifles." * * *

Having mentioned Custer and California Joe, a word regarding them may interest readers. A volume could be written—and is in preparation—giving the real "dope" regarding California Joe. He was one of the greatest shots of the West. Custer was a fair shot—that's all. Like Cody, he loved the lime-light, courted notoriety, was fond of over-dressing and getting credit for what the other fellow did. Custer's favorite photo, holding the "8-squar" Remington so-called sharpshooter's rifle, .50 caliber, as he sat alongside that big buck (which he did not shoot), shows it.

To get back onto the trail—Why could Wild Bill shoot so quickly? It's as plain as paint—and any one interested can demonstrate it. Hickok lived every minute in suspense. He expected trouble; never relaxed; never became careless—until Aug. 2, '76, when he sat with his back to the door. Always in anticipation of trouble, he was ever ready for it.

Mr. Robert ("Baldy") Johnson knew Wild Bill intimately, and remarking how cautious Bill was, says:

"Hickok, entering a room or saloon, would never walk straight across it. He would ease himself along the walls, would go in front of the bar in a saloon if it had a mirror, but otherwise would go to the end of the bar where no one could get behind him. He was always alert, although apparently at ease."

He did not, as has been claimed, shoot on a line with his eyes. Had he done so he would have been put on file early in his career. As Captain North, Talbot, Mayhew, and others testify, he was painfully slow and deliberate aiming at a mark and shooting at a target, a poor shot, usually finishing at the bottom of the list. The 10-cent-piece story is manufactured bunk—he never fired at one.

It is denied by those who knew him that he packed a spring shoulder holster—more bunk. Regarding the two revolvers he wore at the time of his death, Utter (Colorado Charlie), his pal, retained one and gave the other to California Joe, the great scout and "Injun" fighter. Joe was a real shot, and could have cleaned up Bill or any of the others of that day and generation. Joe was soon afterwards murdered in the same cowardly fashion (shot from behind) as Wild Bill, and the probability is had with him at the time Wild Bill's revolver. The whereabouts of either of these Colts is unknown to me.

One Colt, an ivory-handled .44, which Bill packed back in 1870, had the front sight filed off. Regarding *where* and *how* Wild Bill wore

his guns, very little of what we read is true. He had both pistols and holsters given him by the score, and he gave away the majority. One account, published in 1882, tells how Bill wore a Texas holster, tied down to his right leg, and places the time 1872.

It rather lets the *why* out of that statement to look over the photos taken of Bill, alone or in groups, with Utter, Omohundro, Cody, and others, for in a number of them his pistols were stuck in the top of his trousers, for cross drawing (butts towards center). These photos were taken between 1870 and 1876.

Try the following experiment if you are interested in demonstrating "quick draw."

Belt on a single action .44, loose, tied down, or tight, on right side or cross draw. Have a friend time you. *Draw, raise, cock, lower, aim* and fire at a target, size and shape of a man, not over 20 feet away. Aim or not. For the sake of argument don't aim. Fire to hit the target. Then take and weaken the mainspring. File it down (most mainsprings are too stiff). Ease the pull till it is a hair-trigger. Pack the gun in a *real, genuine*, quick-draw holster. Belt it on. When you draw this time, let it be done by pulling the gun out of holster with the thumb on the hammer and forefinger inside the guard, cocking the gun as it comes up, grasping the grips as it clears. Fire on the *rise*. No up and then lower. No cocking after drawing. Practice this a week, first. Use blanks or, better yet, exploded shells, unless you care to get new pants—maybe legs or feet. Notice the *time*. Note the difference. Let your friend use the first method, you use Wild Bill's, and see the difference. He needed no sights, but he did not, as we read, shoot from the hip, nor do any snap shooting or fanning. He did not aim, as we understand aiming. It was as if you point your finger. He had no bull's-eye on his targets! Seldom, very seldom, were his victims over 20 feet away. He had fired before one could aim. Hickok's great secret was in being ready. An old sport, years ago, writing about Wild Bill, tells us he took "touch me not" for his slogan, and after the fashion of his time translated it liberally—"If you see anybody looking for trouble, accommodate them." Wild Bill not only accommodated such, but looked for them.

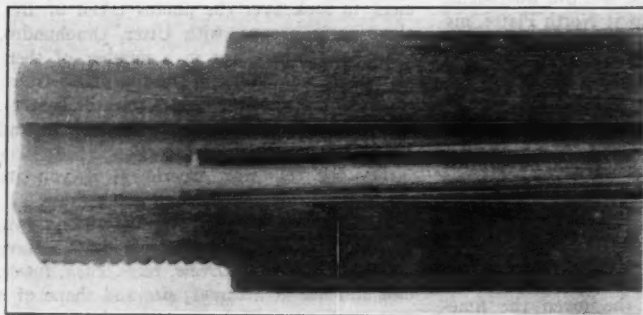
"Do unto others what they'd do to you, but do it first," was his rule. The secret of a successful quick-draw holster is that it be possible, if held in the hand, to fire the gun without removing it. With practice the average reader can, with a single (not double) action 5½-inch .44 or .45 Colt (with the front sight knocked off), in a Weaver quick-draw holster, become as sudden as were Wild Bill, Hardin, Owens, and the others.

Life-Membership Pins—Gold
A limited number only
\$2.50
N.R.A. Service Company
1108 Woodward Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

Gossip of Firearms Trade

Kleanbore Exhibits Offered

The following exhibits are submitted by Remington, in behalf of its Kleanbore ammunition:



RUST-PROOF NON-CORROSIVE 1209 PRIMING

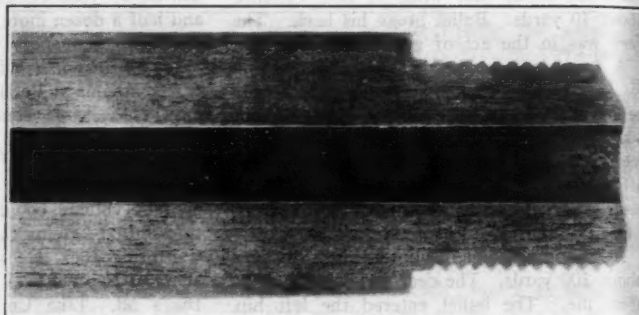
Tests from December 9, 1925, to February 2, 1926.

Ammunition used: .22 Short Smokeless, using 1209 Non-Corrosive Priming and No. 93 Powder.

Rounds fired: 30,000.

During the tests the barrel was not cleaned except that just before each accuracy test a dry patch was run through. Barrel remained free from corrosion to the end of the test of 30,000 rounds.

For comparison, see Rifle 1121-A with "Regular" priming.



REGULAR PRIMING

Tests from December 9, 1925, to February 2, 1926.

Ammunition used: Regular .22 Short Smokeless-Rem., using Standard R. F. No. 10 Priming and No. 93 Powder.

Rounds fired: 30,000.

During the tests, this rifle was cleaned every day it was used in the most careful manner.

Despite this care, the condition of the barrel after 30,000 rounds was very poor, especially in comparison with Rifle 1493-A with 1209 Non-Corrosive priming. Corrosion could be clearly seen after 5,000 rounds.

P. E. BARTH HEADS WESTERN SALES

FROM East Alton, Illinois, comes the announcement that P. E. Barth has been appointed sales manager of the Western Cartridge Company, succeeding in that capacity J. L. Donnelly who has occupied this post for six years, during which same period he has also served as secretary of the company. Mr. Barth has been brought into the organization to allow Mr. Donnelly to devote his entire time to general executive duties in his capacity as secretary.



P. E. BARTH

Western's new sales manager has had many years of association with the hardware and sporting goods industry, his service extending in capacity from club salesman to general manager. For more than twenty-five years he was connected with the Simmons Hardware Company, ten years of which was occupied in daily road contact with dealers.

During the World War, Mr. Barth served in France as captain, 142nd Infantry, 36th Division, a combat unit made up largely from the old 7th Texas and 1st Oklahoma National Guard regiments.

Following the merger of Simmons Hardware with the Winchester Repeating Arms Company, Mr. Barth served as president and general manager of the Winchester-Simmons Company in Kansas City, and subsequently in like capacity of the same organization in Chicago. During the past year, Mr. Barth has been general manager of the R. M. Hollingshead Company of Camden, N. J., manufacturers of "Whiz" products.

WESTERN HAS NON-CORROSIVE PRIMING

The Western Cartridge Company of East Alton, Ill., has announced to the trade that their .22 short, long, and long rifle cartridges will, in the future, be supplied with non-corrosive priming. Of equal interest to the trade is Western's announcement that these .22's, equipped with non-corrosive priming, will sell at the same price as have their .22 Lesmok cartridges and at the option of the trade, loaded with Smokeless powder.

The subject of non-corrosive priming mixture, while as yet scarcely touched upon by magazine writers on gunnery, is one of absorbing interest and long under investigation by Western. Rifle-bore fouling and corrosive rust has, in the popular mind, been attributed to various and sundry causes, and judging from reading in higher channels of chemistry, has been, as well, a more or less difficult and debated field among the world's leading ballistic chemists. The shortest cut to an analysis of the subject for trade and commercial understanding is by reference to extract from technical paper No. 188, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, Subject, "Corrosion Under Oil Films—With Special Reference to the Cause and Prevention of the After Corrosion of Fire Arms," by Walter J. Huff, as follows: "Patent literature records many attempts to prevent or diminish corrosion by modified primer composition. The theories involved are in many respects contradictory. The first patent was granted to H. Ziegler (German and Austrian patents), in 1900. The composition contained a mixture of barium nitrate and barium carbonate instead of potassium chlorate—thus eliminating chlorine which, according to patent claims, causes rusting. The barium carbonate was said to combine with the acid gases produced by the explosion and to prevent the decomposition of the fulminate by the other constituents."

In the ensuing twenty-six years, technical investigators of international fame obtained patents for and issued treatises upon the subject of metal corrosion and primer fouling. The Swiss and Germans today have had non-corrosive priming in use for some time, applying it to the .22 caliber and more recently to high-power, center-fire cartridges and shotgun shells as well. Western will supply Lesmok .22's with non-corrosive priming.

GRIFFIN & HOWE, INC., EXPAND

THE firm of Griffin & Howe, Inc., makers of high-grade rifles, to use a slang expression, have been "up against it" for the past four months. The demand for their rifles and accessories has increased much faster than their organization could take care of it. In order to turn out promptly the rifles for sportsmen leaving on their fall hunting trips and going to Africa, much of their correspondence had to be neglected, and it had piled up to an alarming extent. What was needed was an extension of the organization and the employment of a business manager who could institute modern methods. The president, Mr.

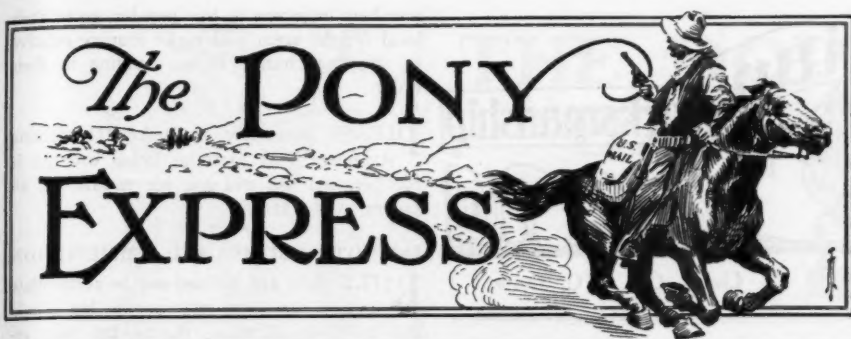
Seymour R. Griffin, and the directors had great difficulty in finding the right sort of man for this position. It was thought that a business manager who was not fully capable and experienced, and who was not also a rifleman and a sportsman, would not fill the bill, for he would not understand the work and would not have the sympathy of their customers. Very happily the problem was recently solved by Major T. Donaldson Sloan joining the organization as Vice-President, Treasurer, and General Manager. Major Sloan was a very prominent officer of the Regular Army, from which he resigned four or five months ago, and is well known to the readers of this magazine as a prominent rifleman and big-game hunter, having hunted all over the United States and Canada, and having contributed many articles to this magazine in the past. In addition, he is an experienced business man, and the firm of Griffin & Howe are very lucky to have obtained his services.

TAKES NEW REMINGTON POST



Photo - Backus

Peter F. Carney, well-known publicity man and sports writer, who went to Remington from Winchester about a year ago, has been appointed advertising manager of Remington. Mr. Carney has had wide experience in the publicity field. Frank J. Kahn, long associated with Remington and widely known as writer, expert on firearms, team coach and marketer, has been made assistant to Mr. Carney.



To the Editor:—Apropos of Mr. Lawrence J. Hathaway's complimentary remarks regarding the recapper supplied with Government reloading tool, which he writes about under the heading of speeding up hand-loading: it may be interesting to readers of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN who are fortunate enough to have one of these tools, to know that the priming bushings for the Bond Model B reloading tool are a very fine fit for the Government priming tool. The Bond priming bushing is not of the same design, but those dimensions that cut the "honorable ice" correspond with the dimensions of the Government tool.

By taking a Bond priming bushing of any caliber, counter-boring the upper end of it so that the head of a cartridge case dropped into it will be flush with the surface of the bushing, and sawing out one side of the bushing with a hacksaw so that cartridge case can be slipped into the bushing from the side, a die can be made that is the equivalent of those regularly furnished with a Government tool as far as all practical purposes are concerned. By this means the Government tool can be adapted to any caliber. Counter-boring the upper end of the die is not a necessity as far as the operation of priming is concerned, but if this is not done, the head of the cartridge case will be above the surface of the die so that primers will have to be placed over the primer pocket instead of sliding them into place with the finger tips. It is essential that the bushings be opened up on one side as there is not sufficient clearance to insert and remove cases through the top of the bushing.

For rimless cases, it is necessary to obtain a bushing, the hole in which is the same diameter or slightly larger than the groove that is turned in the base of the cartridge case. This bushing must be counter-bored from both ends and opened up at the side so as to leave a ridge of steel that will fit into the grooved head of the shell and support it. This counter-boring is not difficult and need not be extremely accurate. No doubt any blacksmith would have a sufficient range of drills to turn the trick for all practical purposes, but a machine shop would be the best place to have the work done, if one is handy. E. Naramore.

BEGGING MR. HATHAWAY'S PARDON

To the Editor:—Once an inventor called in to see me with a reloading tool. It was grand and complicated, and had levers, dinges, and whatnots all over it; but, most of all, it had a turn-table in which some five or more shells were placed and then revolved under the tool, to the left, and presently came back to the operator. At this point the operator had to take out a shell every time he put one in, and I asked the inventor "waffer!" If you had to take the shell out anyway, why revolve it around, and why not just put-and-take right at the beginning. Realizing that I was in league with the big ammunition companies and didn't have a soul, either, the inventor wended, and his tool has never come on the market—just because of my meanness.

I have also handloaded. I have a secluded nook in the basement where I keep my tools, and which is

an ideal place for the family to store whatnots and nothings and other surplus items from upstairs. When loading, I scrape off the accumulation of discarded and cuss the outfit into shape. After getting so far as to have some shells up to the point of being reprimed—full stop. Repriming I always do the very last thing before loading, and not first, as one would gather that Mr. Hathaway does. The reason for this is that lots of defects show up in shells whilst being resized, etc., and I never could see any good reason for wasting time and effort either de- or recapping shells which might fall by the wayside. We are now back to the full stop noted above. When the shells are reprimed I always have them in some sort of a container, box, can, keg, basket, bag, sack, or something to hold them. One time one of the wife's gardeniers found its way into my den of horrors, and I used it. Wife found it in use and promptly dumped out the contents, but (I gloat in secret over this) in adding emphasis to the dumping, to express a proper opinion of one lost to the finer things of life who would put "those dirty brass things" in a gardenier—as I said, in adding emphasis to the dumping process, the gardenier slipped and became one with the illustrious dead. And I wasn't there, and I didn't do it, and I never could be only partly blamed.

Now, I must get back to the story: When I have cases reprimed and ready for powder and bullets, I have them in a container, box, can, keg, basket, bag, sack—and lately in a fish-bowl which drifted my way. Being thus, I get out my loading board. Here Mr. Hathaway should look close. I do not waste one whole operation putting the muzzle down in one board. I have them already in a container box, can, fish-bowl, etc., and I grab them thence one at a time and lift them muzzle down, giving each a sharp tap on the side of the container, fish-bowl, etc., to expel any powder left over from the previous shot—or maliciously placed later in the shells by spies who wish me ill. By printing a sign, "ALL CARTRIDGES IN THE LODGING BLOCK HAVE POWDER IN THEM," and following up the hint, I save one entire operation, avoid damaging the necks of my cases, save some room in my secluded nook for my feet, and reduce the possibilities of the cases in the loading block to two: either they have one charge of powder in them or they have none at all. I am mean enough to look right down into each case before I put a bullet into it, and if the case is clear full and running over, or if it seems to have nothing special in it, I dump it out and inquire around as to who broke the rule set forth on my sign board. Otherwise I put in a bullet.

We have nominated Mr. Hathaway for membership in several clubs here, whom we hope to beat this year, and expect that he will teach them his methods. One should watch Capt. Fred Berger speeding up match cartridges. First, he calipers all bullets. Then he is likely to weigh a lot of them. Then his cases are all looked over, and maybe prayed over—I have heard language which sounded Biblical! Then every operation is done with care, and lastly we get to the powder. Each charge weighted, and when I am present, grave discussion as to whether the one granule then held in the forceps should be added or not, and finally the bullet placed with care. Enough cartridges for a day's shooting is enough for a night's loading, and they are carefully placed in a box and a full pedigree noted so that if they fail to show their F.F.V. bringing up they can be dropped from the social register. These cartridges enabled Berger and I to fire 21 shots whilst practicing for the Camp Lewis turkey shoot as follows: I fired 10, some with aperture sight, some with scope, nine with a sandbag, muzzle rest, and the last one without; pressure barrel. Berger fired also with a heavy rifle with and without scope, and in addition, three shots from a Ansieus Match Springfield. 21 shots all in a rectangle 4½ wide, 2½ high, at 200 yards. 11 of them in the 1½-inch circle, which counted for "one turkey" the next day. Next day I got two turks, same gun, and some of the same hatching of cartridges, 1 turk first shot, one turk 8th shot; I helped a little, because I pulled the trigger, but that gun and those cartridges didn't need but darn little help.

Now, we begged Mr. Hathaway's pardon right at the beginning, and hope we have it thus far, although we are about to strain it a lot. The Chinese load fire-crackers for speed and noise, but white men are supposed to load cartridges with prayer and meditation, and they do it for just one reason—to make

'em hit where they are held. It's foolish to spend time unless you make better cartridges than the ammunition companies do, and you can't do it and speed at the same time. Possibly Mr. Hathaway shoots for noise only, and that is all right for us, but for the love of Pete don't lead your youngsters into thinking that handloading is a mere jest. It ain't. It's an art, a poem, an expression of personality, a solemn and decorous proceeding. "As ye load, so shall ye shoot." C. C. FINN, Seattle, Wash.

John Wallace Gillies

JOHN WALLACE GILLIES, well-known to readers of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN and to all the small-bore shooters of the East, died at his home at Great Neck, Long Island, on February 1. He was an enthusiast in whatever he undertook, and for a long time was one of the dominating spirits in small-bore rifle shooting in New York City. He was the originator of the "Oh Be Joyful" Club.

Hi-Power Rifles on Game

(Continued from page 35)

the right ear. The deer dropped immediately. Whether this shot killed the deer, or whether it died from loss of blood after its throat was cut I cannot say. Anyhow, it never showed any sign of life after being hit.

A .256 Newton, 129-grain S.P. bullet took care of these two:

A black-tail fawn at about 200 yards, standing. The first bullet broke both front legs below the knee, and the next one went through the flank. The deer dragged itself down hill about 50 yards, and was still holding its head up when I came up to it. Evidently the shock was not as great as would be expected from this gun and shell.

A black-tail doe, standing, about 200 yards. The bullet hit low on the right shoulder, breaking it. The deer ran about 50 yards and was dead when I reached it. The bullet seemed to explode, and did not go through.

With a .32 Remington pump, 110-grain Hi-Speed bullet I killed a four-point, black-tail, 170-pound buck, distance about 150 yards. The bullet entered the right side high behind the shoulder, broke one rib, passed through the lungs, and broke one rib on the left side. What was left of the bullet lodged against the shoulder blade. The bullet knocked the deer down, but he got up immediately, and was away before I could hit him again. I found him dead about 150 yards away.

With a .32 Remington pump, 169-grain express mushroom bullet, I got two elk. The first elk, a cow, 350 pounds dressed, was shot through the neck while running at about 75 yards, and was killed instantly.

The second elk, a calf, was shot at very close range in a jack pine thicket. The calf was lying down. I could see it was an elk, but could not pick my shot. The bullet entered the tip of the left shoulder at an angle and evidently broke to pieces on hard bone, but did not go through. The elk jumped up ran about 50 yards, and was standing when I shot it through the head.



MANY CLUBS VERY ACTIVE

SOME very interesting reports have been received from some of the clubs covering their activities for the past year. Quite a number of the secretaries have written some very interesting things on the back of the Report of Firing form. Quite a few clubs have undertaken the matter of assisting the local police in learning to shoot. Others have enrolled a number of members among the people handling the payrolls of large industrial companies, and have taught them to shoot their pistols or revolvers.

More clubs report results of matches fired against other clubs. It is peculiar that matches won are reported while those lost seem to be omitted generally, unless it is some match where several clubs have entered and the reporting club's standing has been high. The Whosis Rifle Club will report defeating the Whatsis Rifle Club by 35 points in a shoulder-to-shoulder match, but the report of the Whatsis Club fails to reveal that they ever fired a match with the Whosis people. Peculiar? But the odds are ten to one that the Whatsis crowd are going to tune up their shooting irons and take the Whosis gang into camp the next time they meet, or break a leg or a front sight or bolt or something.

All in all, the reports already received show a greatly increased interest that should bring about great things in the shooting game.

NEW AMMUNITION AVAILABLE

THE Ordnance Department has manufactured a supply of the new service ammunition, and this is now available for sale to N.R.A. members. It is practically the same as the 1925 National Match ammunition, but is machine-loaded. It has the 172-grain, 90 boat-tail bullet. Initial velocity about 2,700 f.s. Loaded with 51 grains du Pont 1185 powder. Pressure about 50,000 pounds. This ammunition is known as "Ball Cartridges, cal. .30, Mark I."

This ammunition is packed in cases of 1,200 rounds. Ammunition is in clips and in bandoliers of 60 rounds. The price per case of 1,200 rounds is \$59.48; per bandolier of 60, \$2.98. Packing charges, 50 cents for 300 rounds or less 75 cents for over 300 up to a case. No packing charges on case lots. All shipments made from Frankford Arsenal, Pennsylvania. N.R.A. members desiring some of this ammunition, send remittance to the Director of Civilian Marksman, War Department, Washington, D. C.

SEND IN RETURNS BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

AT THE time of writing this, only about 75 per cent of the clubs have sent in their Annual Returns and Reports of Firing. Notices have been sent to all of the delinquents to the effect that unless these required reports are in this office by March 1, that shipping instructions will be sent for the shipment of all stores to an arsenal. At the time you read this notice shipping instructions for all whose Returns have not been received are being made out and mailed as rapidly as possible.

When these clubs have been issued shipping instructions, they will have to be complied with within 30 days or the whole matter will be turned over to the bonding company for adjustment. Only in very exceptional cases will the shipping instructions be cancelled, once they are issued. Regulations under which issues are made require that these reports be submitted December 31 of each year, and when any club fails to make these reports it will be considered sufficient cause for the prompt withdrawal of all equipment therefrom.

Present indications point out that this office will be able to maintain only a certain number of clubs in the future. This number is exceeded at the present time. Until the number is reduced below the limit set, no new clubs may be organized. Therefore it would be unfair to permit clubs that fail to comply with regulations to retain their stores, thereby excluding some active, interested clubs from the privilege of obtaining stores. Hereafter, failure to use stores properly, or failure to submit the required reports will be considered cause to withdraw all Government stores, and no further issues will be made.

HIGH FREIGHT ON POWDER

PROSPECTIVE purchasers of powder are advised that all shipments of powder must be made by freight, in accordance with law. Ammunition and other components may be shipped by express. No explosives may be shipped by mail. As shipments by freight are charged for at the rate for 100 pounds, the charges on a small shipment of one or two pounds may be so excessive as to make the total cost very high. It is understood that the freight rate per 100 pounds to the Pacific Coast is between \$5.00 and \$6.00 per hundred. Other points between in proportion. It is, therefore, recommended that all N.R.A.

members intending to buy powder, go to their local freight agent and make inquiry relative to shipping charges before sending in their order.

PLEASE remember to make the definite statement that material being ordered is for personal use and not for re-sale, on all orders to the D.C.M.

DO NOT ACCUMULATE AMMUNITION

RIFLE clubs are advised not to accumulate ammunition from year to year, but should use up their allowance during the year received. This advice is being given, due to the fact that the ammunition may be going bad. Sometimes this deterioration may cause trouble. Whenever the Ordnance Department finds any particular lot that has gone bad, it is not issued any more. But the inspection by the Ordnance Department only covers those places where ammunition is stored under Government control, and does not include that in the hands of rifle clubs. Some ammunition may have lain away in the club store-room for a number of years. It is therefore recommended that all allowances be fired up during the year issued.

AMMUNITION FOR CAL. .45 REVOLVER

AMMUNITION for the cal. .45 revolver, Model 1909, is available for sale through this office at a price of \$10.00 per thousand rounds. This ammunition will not function in the Model 1917 revolver. It has a rimmed cartridge case, and will function properly only in the Colt double-action revolver, Model 1909. Any one desiring this type of ammunition should not delay in forwarding his order. Requests will be filled in the order received as long as this ammunition lasts.

Follows a description of the above ammunition: Brass cases, with cannellure, loaded with about 8.4 grains smokeless powder, lead bullet weighing 250 grains, total weight of cartridge 357 grains. The cartridges are packed in paste-board cartons containing 20 rounds each. One hundred such cartons, or 2,000 rounds, packed in zinc case, hermetically sealed. This case is enclosed in wooden box. Total weight of one case about 120 pounds. Ammunition is practically all of Frankford manufacture, and is believed to be in serviceable condition. However, it is not guaranteed in any way, being sold entirely "as is," due to low sale price.

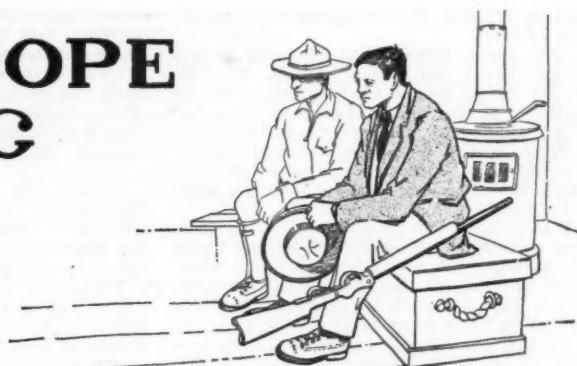
These cartridges will be sold in case lots only, the price per case being \$20.00, shipment charges collect by express or freight, as designated by the purchaser, will be made upon receipt of money order, bank draft, or certified check made payable to the Director of Civilian Marksman.

Order your copy of Col. A. J. Macnab's
Pistol and Revolver Training
Manual now.

AMERICAN RIFLEMAN Book Dept.



THE DOPE BAG



A Free Service to Target, Big Game and Field Shots—All questions answered directly by mail

Rifles and Big Game Hunting: Lt.-Col. Townsend Whelen

Shotgun and Field Shooting: Captain Charles Askins

Pistols and Revolvers: Major J. S. Hatcher

Every Care is used in collecting data for questions submitted, but no responsibility is assumed for any accidents which may occur.

Concerning Old Cases

By Townsend Whelen

I HAVE a few questions I would appreciate answers to in regard to reloads for a .30-06 Springfield Sporter.

During the past few months I have been reloading fired war-time cases for five hundred yard target practice, with 46 grains of 17½ powder, and have found it a very satisfactory load indeed, but it has one drawback: The old cases, even after close inspection, sometimes blow out at the head around the base of the shell. The cases usually split in the neck, also. I do not care for the cases, of course, but what I do not like is the gas blowing back in my face. What I would like to know is what is considered the minimum charge of 17½ behind the 172-grain boat-tail bullet in the .30-06? I have been thinking some of trying about 40 grains, but am afraid the powder residue might be corrosive at the resulting pressure.

This is a somewhat thickly settled community, and consequently I have been trying to develop a load that would have a flat trajectory over a hundred yards or so, and yet not be a long-range load, for shooting crows and hawks. Of late I have been using a load consisting of a Remington .32-20 Hi-Speed bullet, driven by 22 grains of No. 80 powder. This 80-grain hollow-point bullet does all one could ask for, it seems, when it hits a crow, but before going much further I would like to find out whether or not I am likely to damage my rifle barrel by this shooting .311 jacketed through a .308 bore. If I am not, I would also like to know what kind of powder to use (if possible No. 80, or No. 17½) to get a velocity of around 3,000 f.s. with the above bullet, and whether I could expect any degree of accuracy with this speed.

I intend having a new barrel put on my Sporter and using nothing but Remington Kleanbore primers in the ammunition used in it. Do you as yet know anything about these primers?

Do you know of any rule for finding the approximate maximum range of a bullet when the weight, velocity, and caliber are known and the angle of departure is about 30 degrees, which, I believe, gives the greatest range? I refer to flat-base bullets, as I understand boat-tail bullets have a somewhat longer range, other conditions being the same.

If you will kindly answer these questions at your convenience I will again be ever so

much obliged to you, as I have received several favors from you in the past.—B. H.

Answer (by Colonel Whelen). The war-time cases you have been using probably have two faults: The grain structure of the brass has changed though age and caused it to be brittle at the neck, and this causes what we term "season cracking," splitting of the necks. They were originally cases intended for use in machine guns only, and have soft head anneal. This tends to make the primer pockets enlarge, and the gas comes back. Most probably you can continue to use these cases if you will reduce the charge to 40 grains of No. 17½ powder, with the 172-grain bullet, this charge burning fairly well, and I do not think that you will have any trouble with it. Or you might use 36 grains weight of Hercules HiVel powder, with the same 172-grain bullet. This last is the International target load, extremely accurate at 300 meters, with quite low pressure. In a light charge like this HiVel does not give any serious erosion troubles.

The proper solution, however, is to get some good cases. 200 of the new Frankford cases with rifle anneal should last you for a very long time and give perfect results. I have about 200 Frankford 1922 cases, and about 200 Remington cases of about the same year, that I have been using ever since I left Frankford Arsenal in 1922, and they have been reloaded many times, most of them between 25 and 50 times, and they still give perfect results.

I don't believe that you will have any trouble from using the Remington 80-grain, .311", .32-20 Hi-Speed bullets with 22 grains of No. 80 powder in your rifle. If this load gives good accuracy, stick with it. It should not harm the bore any, and the wear on the bore should be practically nil.

The Remington Arms Company have not developed the center-fire Kleanbore primer yet. They have been having difficulty with it, and it is not ready for the market, and it is not known when it will be. This Kleanbore primer composition is only ready in rim-fire ammunition. The trouble is that this priming composition requires a much larger amount of the mixture to work satisfactorily, and the present primers will not hold this amount. Experiments are now being conducted to see if the mixture can

be changed slightly so as to permit the use of the old size primers, or whether a very much larger primer will have to be adopted.

The Kleanbore priming composition is really an invention for a lazy or indifferent man. If one will take the trouble to clean with water or Chloroil, the present primers are entirely satisfactory, and no rust will occur, because water, and only water (Chloroil contains water) will dissolve the salt known as potassium chloride which causes the rust, and that being dissolved, no rust will occur from the primer.

I do not know of any rule by which the maximum range at 30 degrees can be calculated. Calculations do not give correct results. Before the war the Ordnance Department calculated theoretically that the extreme range of the .30-06-150-grain old service cartridge was about 4,800 yards. The war showed that this calculation was entirely erroneous, and since then we have determined extreme range by actual test on a water target the extreme range of the .30-06-150-grain bullet at m.v. 2,700 f.s., has been found to be about 3,300 yards instead of the calculated 4,800 yards; that of the 172-grain boat-tail bullet at 2,700 f.s. has been found to be about 5,900 yards, while the .22 long rifle cartridge when fired in the usual rifle, 24-inch barrel, has been found to be about 1,400 yards. The angle of elevation to obtain the extreme range has been found to differ slightly with various cartridges, but to be about 25 to 30 degrees. Usually about the same extreme range will be obtained from an elevation of 25 degrees as from 30 degrees. The extreme range of your 80-grain Hi-speed bullet with 22 grains of No. 80 powder, is probably less than 2,000 yards, perhaps less than 1,500 yards. That is about all that I can tell you. You might, perhaps, fire it over a big lake on a calm day with two observers well to each flank so that the splash can be located by triangulation. That is about the only method open to the amateur, and should give it roughly.

* * *

HINTS ON HAND-LOADING

I HAVE been shooting the pistol for quite a while, and have now decided to do my own re-loading as I purchased a complete outfit from a friend who has left town. The outfit consists of: 1 44 Smith & Wesson Special Revolver (old model, encased ejector), 1 Ideal Bullet Mould No. 429352, 1 Ideal Universal powder Measure No. 6, 1 Ideal Bullet Lubricator, No. 1, Ideal Complete Loading Tool, No. 3.

I would like to know what number and make of powder is best adapted for this

caliber. What is the best powder to use for this caliber?

The above bullet that fits this mould weighs about 245 grains. Would this bullet be O. K. for 20-yard target work, or would a lighter bullet be more suitable? If so, what ideal bullet would you suggest?

What is the best way to cast bullets? I would not like them too soft, as I noticed that most of the soft bullets lead the guns very badly.

I have about 300 Smith & Wesson Russian cartridges. Would there be any harm in shooting the above shell in this gun? They seem to fit the chamber alright, but would like to know whether there would be any harm in using them.

By the way, I was thinking of getting a new .22 Smith & Wesson straight line target pistol, but most of the boys seem to be opposed to it. Would like to know why that pistol is not as popular as the old model.—S. T.

Answer (by Major Hatcher). The reloading outfit that you have is a very good one. The load that is recommended by the old Ideal handbook is 4 grains of Hercules Bullseye. You can also use du Pont's Pistol Powder No. 5 if you so wish. Use a charge of 5½ grains of this powder.

The bullet would be very satisfactory for 20 yard target work.

These bullets should be cast with about 1 part of tin to about 20 parts of lead to prevent them from being too soft.

Smith & Wesson Russian Cartridges can be fired in the .44 Smith & Wesson that you have. In fact, the cartridge is recommended by the company for both the Russian and the Special.

I think the reason why the straight line has not gotten popular yet is because it has quite a different shaped handle from the old target pistols and most of our good shots are used to the old-style handle and it will take some time to get them changed over to a new style.

THE VALUE VARIES

I AM offered a revolver of apparently ancient vintage, but of whose value I have no knowledge. It is a Colt six-shooter, on the barrel of which is inscribed "Address Col. Colt, London."

It appears to be of .44 or .45 caliber, and is in fair condition. Its number is 4107, and there is etched on the handle the head of a "long-horn."

I would appreciate any information regarding its manufacture and value, which you may be able to give from this meager description.—E. H. H.

Answer (by Maj. Hatcher). The revolver that you have is evidently a Colt .45 of the period of the Civil War as many Colts were manufactured in London.

These guns are very interesting but they do not demand much of a price from collectors as there are a great many of them available. I could not give you the exact figure of the value of this gun because it varies, depending on whether someone happens to want one.

IT WAS FAMOUS—ONCE!

I HAVE in my possession a revolver which is in need of repair and I would like to have your advice as to the best place to have this work done. This revolver is I guess what was called a Newin Hulbert. The top of the barrel which is 7 inches has Newin Hulbert & Co. New York, U. S. A., and patent dates from January 24, '74 to March 6, '77. The side of the barrel has Hopkins and Allen Manufacturing Co., Norwich, Conn., U. S. A., and the side of the

frame has Caliber Winchester 1878. The cylinder and barrel revolve on a spindle and some time ago a few high power rifle cartridges were used in it with the result that the spindle broke into four pieces. This spindle is the part I wish repaired. The gun otherwise is in excellent condition.—G. W. B.

Answer (by Maj. Hatcher). Your Merwin-Hulbert revolver is evidently a .44-40. This was a very famous make of revolver, the manufacture of which was discontinued about twenty years ago, more or less.

The people who made this gun have gone out of business and the only way to get it repaired is to have the work done by some gunsmith and suggest you write to P. L. Johnson, 5904 Harvard Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., who might be able to give you a price for this work.

CHANGE ONCE A YEAR

HOW long should Pistol cartridges of the ordinary commercial type loaded with smokeless powders be allowed to remain in the guns to be effective?

How often should Revolvers and Automatic Pistols be inspected and cleaned which lie dormant in desk drawers and are carried by messengers of our large institutions, such as banks, etc.?—H. A. F.

Answer (by Maj. Hatcher). Commercial pistol cartridges properly made and not subjected to dampness or being soaked with oil, will last from five to ten years without deterioration, but I would suggest, as a matter of precaution, that the cartridges be changed once a year.

Revolvers or automatic pistols in a desk drawer should be cleaned and lightly oiled about once every two years as a matter of principle, though if proper oil is used they will remain in working condition for a very much longer period. Guns carried by messengers will accumulate dirt much quicker and should be inspected periodically not less often than once a month and be thoroughly cleaned of lint and all other accumulations that might interfere with functioning. Also, the barrel should be cleaned and oiled inside to prevent rusting.

SIGHTS AND BARRELS

WILL you give me name and address of some concern that will make a front sight for me? The sight I have in mind has never been made to my knowledge. I want an apparatus for target work. It should be ¾ to 1 inch long, 5/64-inch aperture drum, the hole goes through 7/32 inch in diameter on top to this drum, regular knife-blade ¼ to 3/16 inch high, and full length of drum. This can all be covered by shade, detachable.

I made one rather crude job, but could do as well from prone position with Winchester .52 as I could with 5-A scope. An aperture, of course, is no good for off-hand shooting, hence the knife-blade on top makes necessary two zeros for two sights. What do you think of it?

Here is my pet scatter-gun load for ducks, geese, —12-gauge gun, 30 grains ballistite last used on perider has ¾-inch hole (approximately), then wad of thin rubber sheet packing, 1 ounce No. 3 chilled. About what breech pressure and what muzzle velocity? It's sure a killer and has light recoil.

I have a Baker double 12-gauge, weight 8½ pounds, 3-inch chambers, old gun, serial No. 757, cost \$75.00 in 1900. I shot as much as 32 ballistite and 1½ ounce shot, 2½-inch shell, hand load of course, and no sign of trouble. Last year it blew up with Peters high velocity no chance of any obstruction in barrel left barrel blew out between end

of shell and cone. In your opinion what caused it?

I would like to have new barrels put on this gun, left cylinder right modified if it can be done for not over \$12.00 to \$15.00 for Chinese pheasant shooting only in bush, only 8-days season who would you suggest writing to?—M. M. O.

Answer (by Capt. Askins). I see what you want in the way of a sight. I do not know about the aperture, but that blade is going to work. Fact is you will have a Marine Corps blade, than which no sight is better if any so good. It looks to me that front aperture would be so darn fine though that when it was on you couldn't see through it. Might be wrong about it. This sight will have to be made by hand and will cost you a plenty, I guess. Try Eric Johnson, Box 723, Ardmore, Okla., and Belding and Mull, Phillipsburg, Pa. Belding and Mull are now making the Marine Corps front sight, but are doing it as yet by hand. If that aperture is large enough for ordinary eyes to see through, not much doubt but what you have a killing sight.

Your load of Ballistics is pretty high, but then you are using a very light load of shot, so think the heavy powder charge and the light shot charge would balance one another. Doubt if the pressure would be over four tons.

I note your old Baker blew up with a modern load. Had you asked the people who made this gun or the people who made the ammunition, they would have advised you not to use such ammunition except in barrels of the most modern steel. You don't want to take such chances.

You can get new barrels for this gun from Hoffmans, Ardmore, Okla. But I think they would cost you about forty dollars. That would pay you better than buying a new gun, maybe. The Baker Arms Company is still in business, I think. Perhaps they would do better than that, putting on barrels in accordance with the grade, whatever that may have been. Usually new barrels cost about one half the price of the gun, and your gun would sell or would have sold for one hundred dollars, at a rough guess.

COMPARING SHOT LOADS

WHAT is the maximum range that a Winchester model 1912—16 gauge—28 inches full choke barrel shooting Super X or equivalent 1½ oz. load, can be depended on to kill ducks and like game?

What is the effective range for such a gun shooting single ball or buck shot?

Do "brush" or "scatter" loads used in a choke bored gun (16 gauge) compare favorably with patterns obtained from standard quail loads used in cylinder barrel?

Would you recommend full choke or modified barrel be ordered for a 16-gauge Winchester to be used as a general all-round gun, but mostly intended for ducks, wild guinea fowl, and rabbits, with an occasional chance after quail and dove? If a modified choke (16 gauge) will kill up to 50 yards I would prefer it to buying an extra barrel, especially as I find that I miss plenty of shots with a full choke gun.

The idea I have in mind is to get one gun that will do for all my shooting and then practice until I am an expert with it. I find that changing guns for different kinds of game is disastrous to skill. I have tentatively decided on the 16 gauge Winchester as having about the right weight and dimensions, and if the new Super X loads make the 16 gauge shoot with the 12 gauge standard load then the 16 should kill ducks as far as the average shot can hit them. Am I right?

For other than long range shooting what load of powder and shot would be best to

use? I also wish to standardize on one load for all ordinary shooting as I will probably order shells by the case. How about $2\frac{1}{2}$ dr.—1 oz.—6 ch. as a compromise? Or would $2\frac{3}{4}$ dr. of powder be better?

If in your opinion no one barrel will do for general shooting, should I order full choke and cylinder bore?—D. E. M.

Answer (by Capt. Askins). Fifty yards is maximum range.

The range with single ball would depend on how the gun shot, how close it would shoot to the bull with a number of rounds. No doubt the heavy ball would kill deer up to two hundred yards, if you could hit 'em. Some guns will shoot round bullets very well, and the next gun may throw two feet high at sixty yards. You should be able to kill deer up to sixty yards, anyhow, and maybe up to a hundred. Buckshot are reliable up to about 40 yards, striking an animal in the side. Buckshot should never be used by a man who is shooting for the sport there is in it.

As a rule the scatter or brush loads do not pattern so well as an improved cylinder barrel would. The patterns are rarely uniform, one being good and another bad.

Modified choke. You won't find much difference in the range of a full choked gun and a modified choke, not over three yards, and the modified barrel is easier to hit with and is adapted to about every kind of shooting.

In case lot shells for general shooting I'd have the gun loaded with $2\frac{1}{2}$ drams of du Pont or other bulk powder and 1-1/16 ounces of shot, $7\frac{1}{2}$ for birds, 7 or 6 for ducks. Quail loads do well with $2\frac{1}{4}$ drams and one ounce of eight soft.

One barrel will do for general shooting just as well as not. If you did a lot of shooting in the woods however, you might want an improved cylinder barrel, but a man can have just about as much fun with his regular barrel even if he does miss a shot now and then.

* * *

LOADS FOR .25-35

I RECENTLY purchased a Winchester single-shot rifle, caliber .25-35, nickel-steel barrel, set triggers, and in very fine condition. I got this mainly for chuck shooting, and as I noticed in THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN you praise this gun and caliber very much, thought I would write for a little information concerning it.

It has a Winchester barrel on it now. would you advise me sending it to Neidner and having them put one of their barrels of this caliber on it? Or would this one be all right for chuck shooting? The man I purchased it from showed me some targets he had made at 100 yards. It groups around 2 inches. He said the load which he found worked best was 24 grains of du Pont No. 16. I haven't had a chance to try the gun as yet, as it has been terribly cold here. Will you kindly send me a list of some loads that you would recommend for this gun. I forgot to say that with this load the 87-grain Savage soft-point bullet was used.

Also, another thing: Would you advise me to have this re-stocked? It has the regular shotgun butt-type factory stock. What would you suggest in the line of a restock job? I don't care to go in this too expensively, but I want something that is going to be right when it is finished. What about dimensions and so forth? I use a scope all the time, so that might change things some. I am five feet, 9 inches in height, weigh about 160 pounds, and have medium length arms. The man I got this gun from showed

me a Springfield he had restocked by R. G. Owen. It certainly was a very nice job. What do you think of his work? I was told he was not very expensive.

What I wanted to do was to get an old Ballard or Stevens and have Neidner put on a barrel, but I couldn't connect up with any. This old fellow has some beautiful specimens, but I couldn't get him to let any of them go. Do you know where I could get one?—G. A. H.

Answer (by Colonel Whelen). You are certainly in luck to get a .25-35 Winchester single shot in good condition, for they are most excellent rifles. The chances are that if the bore is free from rust it has not been shot enough to make any material difference. Those old Winchester No. 3 nickel-steel barrels used to wear a long time. I would not think of having a new barrel put on it as long as it continues to shoot accurately. 24 grains of du Pont No. 16 powder with the 87-grain Savage bullet ought to be a good load for your rifle. No. 16 is now obsolete, however, its place having been taken by du Pont No. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ powder, which is, perhaps, slightly better. You could use the same charge of No. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ with just about the same results. This is a moderate charge, with very little wear on the barrel, and the accuracy ought to be fine. I would also suggest the following loads:

Bullet	Grains Powder	M. V.—f.s.
87 gr.	21.8 No. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,865
	27.0 No. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,380
	30.0 No. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,690 Maximum
	10.0 No. 80	1,750
100 gr. (Western O.P.)	28.6 No. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,450 Maximum
	26.0 No. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,300
	13.0 No. 80	1,675
	23.2 No. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,978
117 gr.	26.0 No. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,250 Maximum
	13.0 No. 80	1,600 Maximum

The above velocities are for a 26-inch barrel. If your barrel is longer, add approximately 25 f.s. for every inch over 26 inches. In loading the bullets, let them extend a little further out of the case than ordinary, perhaps, so that you cannot seat them completely within about 1/16 inch, allowing the breech block to push them completely into the chamber. This will give the best accuracy, and the pressures will be slightly lower.

The Winchester stock is very poorly proportioned. Particularly, the comb is entirely too low for use with a telescope. But I think that before you go to the rather heavy expense of getting a hand-made stock for the rifle I would experiment and see just exactly what you want. Suppose you plane off the present comb to a flat surface on top, and on this flat surface pin and glue a very high and thick comb, just low enough so that you can still clean the rifle from the breech. Try this comb with your telescope, and file or rasp it down and thin it until you get it exactly as you wish. Also try placing pieces of wood of varying thickness under the butt-plate until you get that just the right length and the right angle (pitch). Also try padding and shaping up the pistol grip with electrician's tape until you get it just right. This will be very interesting work, and will pay many times over for the labor entailed. Also try your hand at shaping up and extending the forearm in a similar way. Fit good sling swivels and a good shooting sling. Then, when you get things just to suit you, send the whole outfit, rigged up, stock and all, to a good gunsmith and have him make you a first-rate stock of those dimensions and shape. There are lots of gunsmiths who make good stocks. Neidner makes very good ones. Mr. R. G. Owen is probably the best stocker in the country,

and of course his prices are a little high accordingly.

Those little books, "Cartridges and Loads," were entirely exhausted two years ago. The new book, "Hand-loading Ammunition," a circular of which I enclose, has taken its place. This book is a wonder in the information it contains. There are, for example, many pages of data and loads on reloading the .25-35 cartridge.

* * *

TOO MUCH SMOKE

A WEEK ago I purchased a Colt revolver, police positive target, shooting the caliber .22 Winchester rim-fire cartridge. It is a heavy frame gun, weighing 26 ounces. At the last meeting of my club (Manhattan Rifle and Revolver Association, N. Y. City). I asked a fellow member to test it. Previously to his test, I had fired some 42 shots.

My observation was that the amount of smoke was very great. I used ammunition made by the Winchester company.

When the other man shot it, he fired six shots, one of which was a keyhole shot. Is this any defect in the gun? It is, in the test-er's opinion, bad ammunition. What do you make of it?

Also, what about the smoke question?

The cartridges were Lesmok.

Is there any possibility of fitting a different cylinder to this gun so that it will shoot the long rifle cartridge? If there is, would that be the only thing necessary to change, or would a new barrel be necessary?—A. M. P.

Answer (by Major Hatcher). The .22 Winchester rim-fire is really an obsolete cartridge now, in comparison with the improvements that have been made in the .22 long rifle cartridges in recent years.

The .22 W. R. F. is not a popular cartridge, therefore, stocks remain on dealers' shelves longer and have a chance to go stale. This is probably the trouble with your ammunition.

I believe the factory can fit a new cylinder to your gun that will take the long rifle cartridge. The barrel dimensions and twists are the same for both cartridges.



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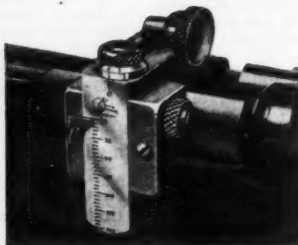
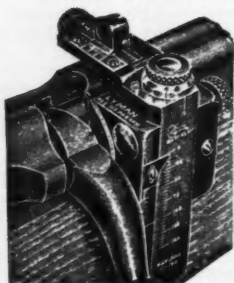
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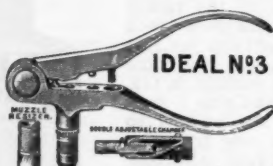
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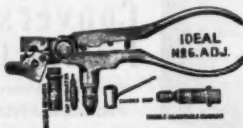
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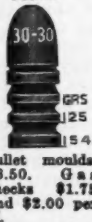
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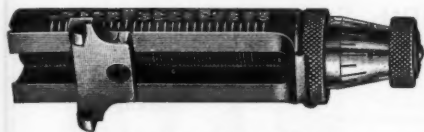


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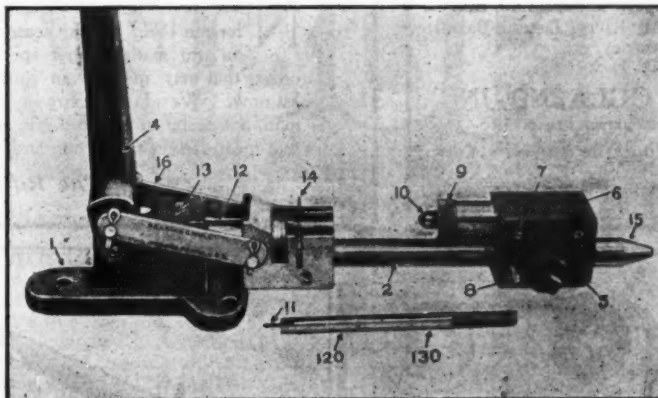
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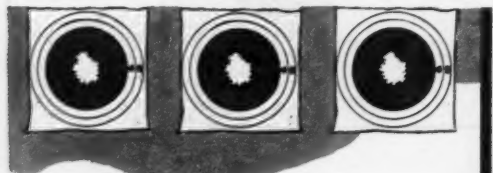
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"... this bullet seems to deliver such a tremendous jolt they can't stand up under it."



Fairbanks, Alaska
Jan 2, 1927

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After several careful tests of the effects of various makes of ammunition and bullets of .30-06 caliber on different species of big game I finally chose the Western 180 grain boat-tail as being without an equal and have shot them exclusively the past 3 years.

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Congratulating you on this splendid product put before the American shooter and wishing you continued success, I remain,

Yours truly,
Harold L. Criger



Pictured above is an actual photographic reproduction of a letter received from Mr. Harold L. Criger, written on birch bark and mailed in a birch-bark envelope. Read Mr. Criger's impressive comments regarding the effectiveness of WESTERN ammunition.



Mr. Criger with a 40-point caribou head obtained in open tundra country in Alaska, with WESTERN ammunition.

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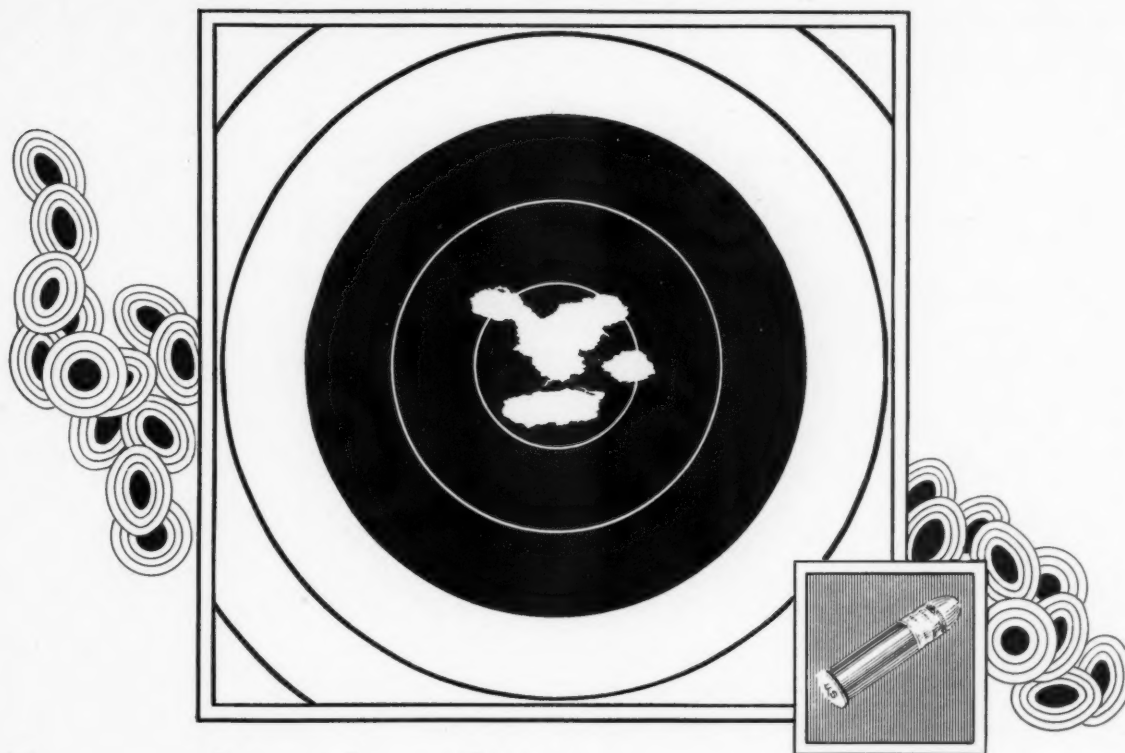
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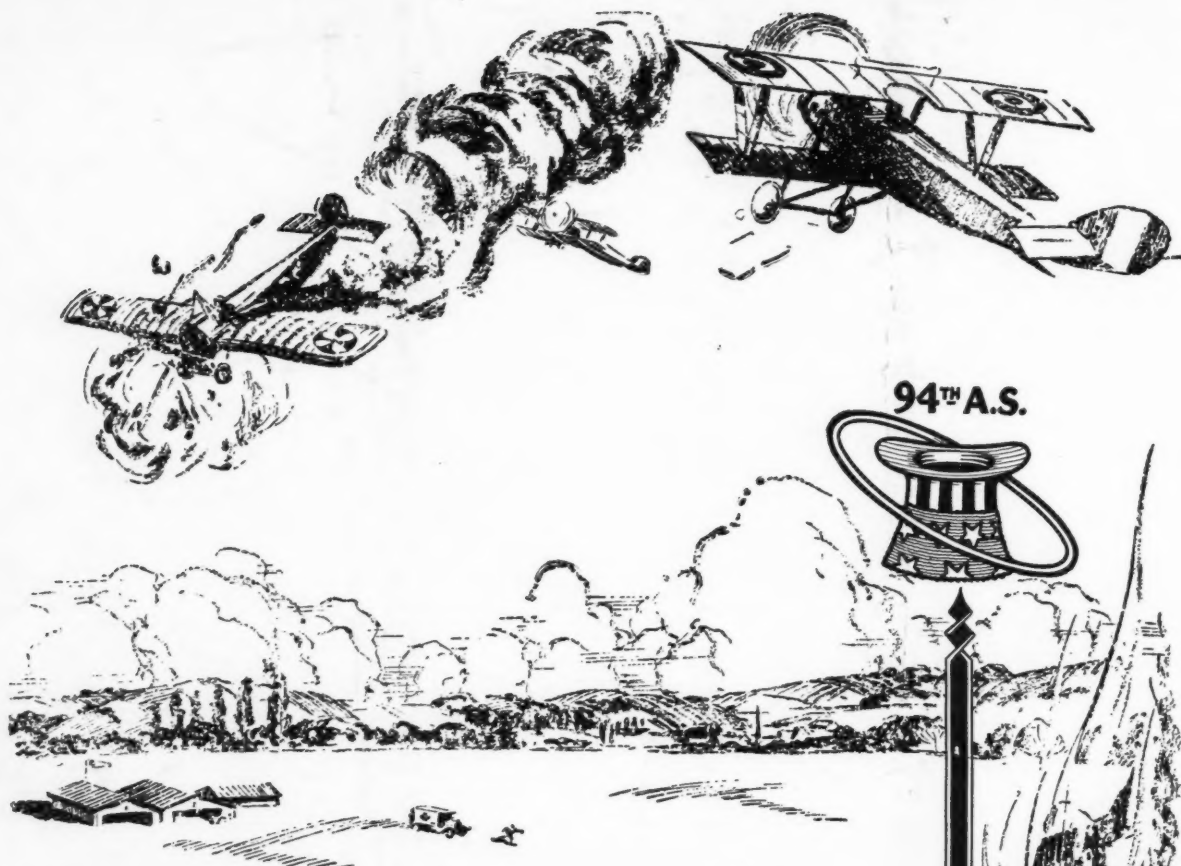
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Long Rifle Cartridges



The Black Cross comes down

The mist of early morning dropped lazily around a little tent where two men sat, playing cards. A mile away the much-bombed city of Toul was awakening to another day.

In the tent a phone rang. "Two German planes sighted, flying about 2000 metres over the city."

Two forms vanished from the tent. Two pursuit planes soared upward and began to circle toward Toul. A gun barked from the obscured sky. Suddenly the mechanics on the flying field gave a yell—and a flaming plane with black crosses on its wings crashed in a nose dive. The noise had hardly subsided when another crash came on the opposite side of the field, and again the black cross was visible in the wreckage.

This was April 14, 1918. The two men who left their card game so hurriedly were Lieut. Alan F. Winslow and Lieut. Douglas Campbell, of the 94th Aero Squadron. The two enemy planes were the first ships to be brought down by the American Air Service—the first chapter in a long book of brilliant achievement in the clouds.

E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & CO., Inc.
Wilmington, Delaware



Du Pont Powder has been inseparably connected with the combat history of every organization in the Service. In 1802, practically all du Pont Powder was made for military purposes. Today, 98% is produced for industrial uses.

